SHS to give away Seresto collars at Sabulu Market. PAGE 2
MHS: 80% of home care patients have diabetes. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 234

www.saipantribune.com | FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2024 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

DPW urged to enforce 2% developer's tax on Tinian

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Edwin P. Aldan said the island is currently experiencing considerable military activity, including projects such as the Divert Airfield at West Field and the proposed Commonwealth Joint Military Training activities.

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Edwin P. Aldan is urging the Department of Public Works to take immediate steps to assess and enforce the developer's tax on all relevant construction projects on Tinian.

In a letter to DPW Secretary Ray Yumul dated yesterday, Nov. 21, Aldan highlighted the importance of enforcing the developer's tax, a 2% levy on construction projects related to

See DPW on Page 4

Former Rota mayor Atalig passes away

Atalig

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig passed away unexpectedly yesterday with the CNMI community mourning the loss of another devoted public servant.

Atalig, whose death remains undetermined, will live on in the hearts of the people of the CNMI,

See ATALIG on Page 4

'Increase in airport rates concerning'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios says he is concerned about the upcoming increase in rates to be implemented by the Commonwealth Ports Authority as it would impact tourism negatively.

Previously CPA announced that it would be

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KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
The Francisco C. Ada/ Saipan International Airport's terminal

Senate passes bill to regulate 'lime' sold in stores

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The full Senate body has officially passed Senate Bill 23-54, which essentially regulates *afok* or *bweesch*—commonly known as lime—under the Pure Food and Drug Control Act.

Following a Senate session last Tuesday, the Senate unanimously passed S.B. 23-54 which essentially regulates afok or bweesch—commonly known as lime—that are sold in stores.

The bill now heads to the

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LEIGH GASES

Afok or *bweesch*—commonly known as lime—for chewing are seen in stock at Lucky Star in Chalan Kanoa

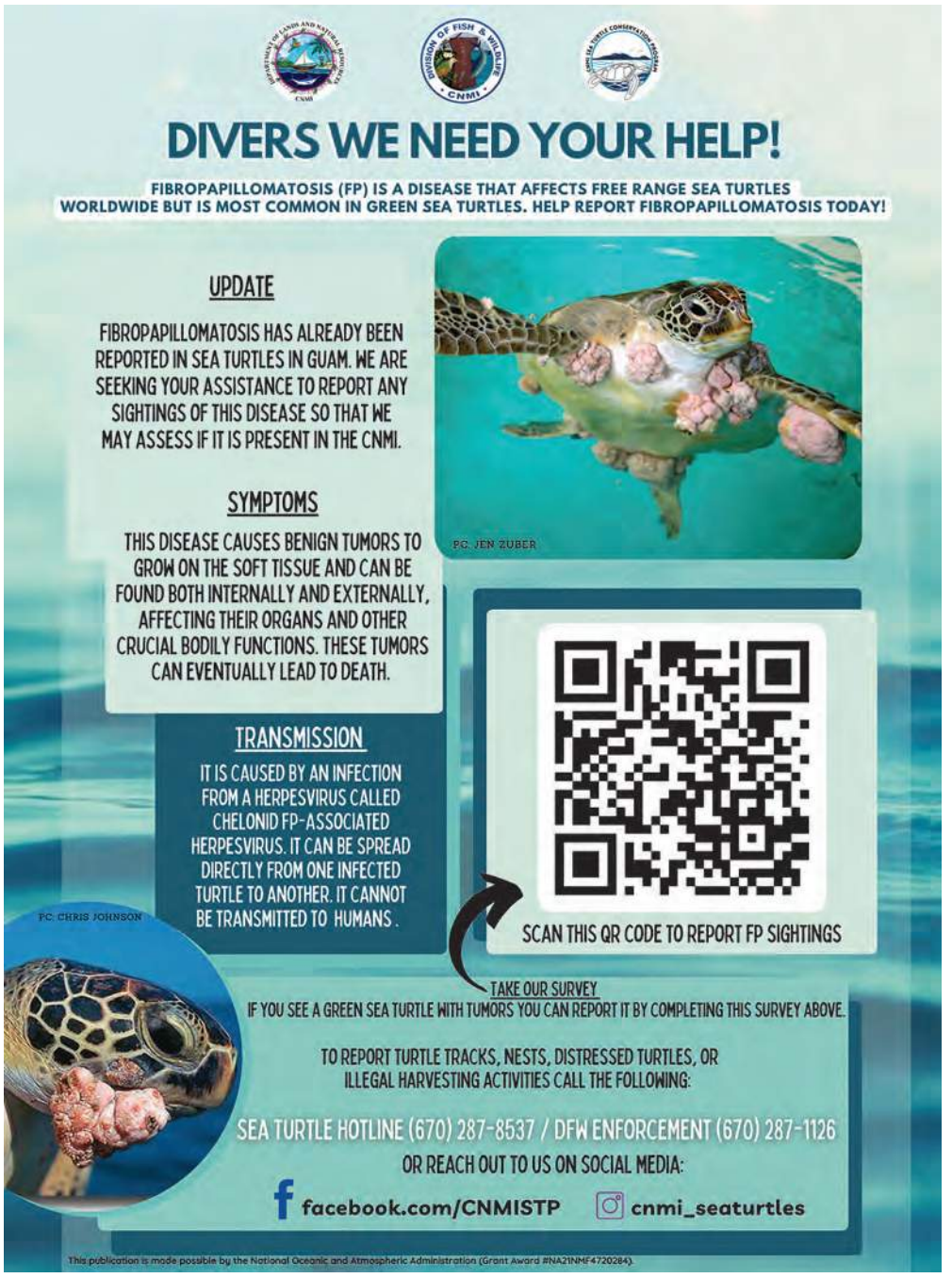
INSIDE

BUSINESS
Amidst the calm allure of Fina Sisu, Café Citrus is a dazzling haven that offers locals new tastes and meaningful interactions.
PAGE 13

WORLD
Israeli officials demanded Wednesday the freedom to strike Lebanon's Hezbollah as part of any cease-fire deal, raising a potential complication as a top U.S. envoy was in the region attempting to clinch an agreement.
PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE
The former members of One Direction reunited Wednesday for the funeral of bandmate Liam Payne.
PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.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FIBROPAPILLOMATOSIS (FP) IS A DISEASE THAT AFFECTS FREE RANGE SEA TURTLES WORLDWIDE BUT IS MOST COMMON IN GREEN SEA TURTLES. HELP REPORT FIBROPAPILLOMATOSIS TODAY!
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PC. JEN ZUBER
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TRANSMISSION
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This publication is made possible by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Grant Award #NA21NMF4720284).

Local

SHS to give away Seresto collars at Sabulu Market

This Thanksgiving season, the Saipan Humane Society, with the generous support of the Banfield Foundation, is giving thanks to the community by offering free Seresto collars for local dogs at the Sabulu Market tomorrow, Nov. 23, from 6am to 10am. This initiative aims to help protect pets from fleas and ticks during the holiday season and beyond.

The Seresto collar is a vet-recommended flea and tick prevention solution that offers up to eight months of continuous protection. It is safe for dogs seven weeks and older, providing a long-lasting, mess-free option to ensure pets stay comfortable and healthy. This holiday season, SHS team is thrilled to give back to the community with this generous giveaway.

"We are incredibly thankful to the Banfield Foundation for making this event possible, especially as we come together to celebrate Thanksgiving," said SHS clinical director Ruby Ma. "This time of year, we want to give thanks for the animals and families in our community, and we're excited to help pet owners ensure their dogs stay safe from fleas and ticks."

In addition to the free Seresto collars, pet owners are invited to visit the SHS clinic to purchase Simparica Trio, a highly effective heartworm preventative. This medication also protects against fleas, ticks, and intestinal parasites, making it an essential part of any pet's health routine.

The Seresto collar giveaway is available for dogs aged seven weeks and older, while supplies last. SHS encourages all pet owners to stop by Sabulu Market between 6am and 10am for this important community event.

For more information about the giveaway or to learn more about Simparica Trio, visit www.saipanhumanesociety.org or follow SHS on social media for updates.

SHS is the only active non-profit pet clinic on the island of Saipan. Founded with the mission to improve the lives of animals in the community, the organization provides essential veterinary care, outreach programs, and pet adoption services to help tackle the island's animal welfare challenges.

The Banfield Foundation is dedicated to supporting the health and welfare of pets in communities across the U.S. and globally. By partnering with organizations like SHS, the foundation works to provide pet care solutions and improve access to veterinary services for underserved populations. ***(PR)***

MHS says 80% of its home care patients have diabetes

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Marianas Health Services administrator George Cruz said that 80% of their over 110 home care patients have diabetes, leading to high costs and emotional challenges.

Cruz disclosed this during the press briefing of "Walk on Wednesday," Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service's newest public wellness program last Wednesday morning at the NMC campus.

Aside from Cruz, also serving as panelists of the event were NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, NMC-CREES nutrition and health extension agent Ashley Sikayun, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Dr. Esther Muña, and NMC-CREES Green Growth Initiative team 2 co-chair Keoni Tudela.

The Walk and Roll on Wednesday outreach or WOW started this week and the recurring weekly outreach will provide free blood pressure and blood sugar checks every Wednesday, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm at the 13th Fishermen Utt in Beach Road.

According to Sikayun, the WOW project is a Green Growth initiative and partnerships with various organizations have made a meaningful impact on the community.

"NMC-CREES with the CNMI Green Growth Initiative and through our partners—CHCC, Public Health, Hardt Eye Clinic, Diabetes Education Center, Marianas Health, the NMC Nursing Club, and the Children's Healthy Living Program—are excited to announce the relaunch of an initiative that has made a meaningful impact on the lives of many in our community," said Sikayun.

She added that WOW was created to as an opportunity to raise awareness about preventing diabetes and a commonly associated health issue, hypertension, promoting early detection, encouraging physical activity through walking or rolling, and offering practical resources to empower healthier lifestyles.

"We aim to bring health care beyond the hospital walls to where people need it the most ... According to the American Diabetes Association 11.6% of American adults have diabetes and more than one in three American adults have prediabetes, which puts them at risk for developing type 2 diabetes, and over 80% of individuals with prediabetes don't even know they have it," added Sikayun.

According to Guerrero, NMC's Sustainable Development Goals include economic and health aspects.

"It's really important that we do this because when we launched the Green Initiatives, everyone thought it was just about the environment. But we have to point out that many of the Sustainable Development Goals—17 of them—are economic in nature, but also many of them are health in nature. Because a healthy life is a wealthy life," said Guerrero.

Meanwhile, Muña said that the partnership with NMC is valuable in addressing health issues, a community-driven approach in tackling health challenges.

"We just did a hybrid survey assessment last week, and NMC-CREES was there at the table to basically break it down, but we know that in order for us to address the health issues of the same mind, we need to make it a community-driven mission," she said.

Cruz, representing the private sector, said MHS supports the collaboration between the sectors while emphasizing the significance of public-private partnerships for sustainable healthcare.

"I do agree that public and private partnership is very important when we are looking at long-term sustainability, whether it's programs or activities or just the healthcare in general for our people and our communities throughout the CNMI. We should never forget our brothers and sisters on Rota and Tinian... I believe with WOW starting here, it has a little bit of discussion to make sure that we move toward Tinian and Rota as well, and keeping it consistent," said Cruz.

Tudela said that the WOW initiative is more than just a health program as it aims to empower individuals to take control of their health and well-being. He added that the program offers various resources and support to help individuals adopt healthier lifestyles and reduce risks.

CCAC reduces Garapan Street Market vendor fees

To entice more vendors to the Garapan Street Market, the Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture has reduced its vendor fee to $50/night. Vendors must provide their own tents, tables, and chairs; electrical power is available for an additional $25/night.

The Garapan Street Market—featuring street food, arts and crafts, and other items—will resume on Dec. 5, 2024, at Paseo de Marianas on Thursdays from 5:30pm to 9pm (the market will be cancelled on Dec. 12 and resume on Dec. 19). Interested vendors may contact CCAC at (670) 322-9982 or contact CCAC executive director Gloriana Teuira at glorianafolkarts@gmail.com to register by Nov. 27, 2024. ***(PR)***

ATALIG

From page 1

especially the people of Rota, thanks to his unwavering dedication to his community.

In deep respect for the untimely passing of the former mayor of Rota, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has ordered that the flag of the Commonwealth, together with the flag of the United States of America, are to be flown at half-staff at the Juan Atalig Sablan Memorial Building and upon all public buildings, instrumentalities, and grounds within the Commonwealth until the sunset of the day of his interment.

In a statement from Palacios, he said Atalig embodied the spirit of servant leadership, always putting the needs of his community first.

"It is with deep sadness that we share the untimely passing of former mayor of Rota, Efraim M. Atalig, a devoted public servant and beloved leader of our Commonwealth. Mayor Atalig's steadfast dedication to the island of Rota and his tireless efforts to uplift its people will always be remembered. Mayor Atalig truly embodied His work to strengthen Rota's economy, preserve our culture, and foster unity throughout the CNMI has left a lasting impact on everyone who knew him. As we grieve this great loss, let us also take time to reflect on the values he stood for: humility, perseverance, and an unwavering love for our islands. Especially for the island of Rota, let us honor his legacy by continuing to serve our community with the same commitment and passion he demonstrated throughout his life," he said.

Palacios said his thoughts and prayers are with his family, the people of Rota, and all whose lives he left an impression on.

"May Mayor Efraim M. Atalig rest in eternal peace," he said.

In a statement from Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog, she honored Atalig's memory stating that he served with kindness, compassion, and commitment.

"It is with deep sorrow and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Efraim Atalig, former mayor of Rota. Mr. Atalig dedicated his life to serving the people in various capacities. His legacy of leadership and public service will be cherished by all who knew him," she said.

Hocog said the funeral announcement, including details of the service, will be shared at a later time.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time. May the perpetual light shine upon him and may he rest in peace," she said.

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB25-BECQ/DLNR-42500016

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 27, 2024 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"Purchase of One (1) Agricultural Tractor and Three (3) Attachments: One (1) Mower, One (1) Front bucket, and One (1) Hitch Compatible w/ Tractor for DLNR – Parks & Recreation, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR ACCESS PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG. NO. 12386 ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MR. JUSTIN PANGELINAN, CLEAN AIR PROGRAM MANAGER AT justin.pangelinan@becq.gov.mp BY DECEMBER 13, 2024, AT 4:00 P.M.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
BECQ ADMINISTRATOR

/S/ GERALDINE T. CRUZ
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

INCREASE

From page 1

implementing its budget for fiscal year 2025 which includes a large increase in airport rates and fees.

In an interview with Palacios, he said he is concerned.

"I'm concerned about that because obviously Asia Pacific is a very competitive destination. We're competing with Thailand, Vietnam, Taiwan, the Philippines, Japan, Korea so we need to make sure we don't impact the feasibility and viability of international airlines that come to the Commonwealth," he said.

Palacios said he will be sitting down with the CPA board to further discuss the matter.

"I'm meeting with the CPA chair to sit down and hash this out but eventually, we're going to be sitting down with the board to see what kind of impact they've projected. I'm just very concerned about this," he said.

Following a previous board meeting, CPA shared that the terminal rental rate that airline companies will pay at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport will go up to $41.07 for fiscal year 2025, from $34.92 in FY 2024, while the landing fee will increase to $19.73 from $15.25.

As for the commuter terminal, the terminal rate went up to $16.43 from $13.97, and the landing fee to $11.84 from $9.15.

CPA comptroller Sheryl Sizemore informed CPA board members during a previous board meeting that the new rates will take effect by Dec. 1, 2024

Since fiscal year 2023, CPA has had no choice but to increase fees because as an autonomous agency, CPA has to garner funds through fees and rates to subsidize its operations.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, back in September 2023, the previous CPA board adopted a new rate methodology that reflected a 90% increase in landing fees and a 79% increase in terminal rental fees which makes up CPA's fiscal year 2024 budget.

With the adopted budget, the CPA terminal rental rates for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport's main terminal went up from $19.49 per square foot to $34.92. Meanwhile, the terminal rental rates for all CNMI commuter terminals went up from $7.79 to $13.97.

As for landing fees, with the 90% increase, CPA charges international airline carriers $15.25 per thousand pounds of certified maximum gross landing weight of the aircraft; they were previously being charged $8.01. As for CNMI commuter terminals, the 90%-increase brings landing fees up from $4.81 to $9.15.

DPW

From page 1

military developments on Tinian, mandated by CNMI law.

"I am writing to bring to your attention the critical need to assess and enforce the developer's tax, as mandated by CNMI law, on construction projects related to military developments on Tinian. This tax, which imposes a 2% levy on developers, represents a significant source of revenue that our municipality must capitalize on to address pressing infrastructure needs," wrote Aldan.

Yumul confirmed receipt of Aldan's letter and said he's cognizant of his concerns.

"I did have conversations with Mayor Aldan on multiple occasions regarding this. I told him that I would look into the matter," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Aldan mentioned in his letter that the revenue from this tax is crucial for addressing infrastructure needs on Tinian, especially given the significant military activity and construction projects taking place.

"The developers' tax, set at 2%, is designed to be collected on the cost of development projects, contributing to the funding of public infrastructure and improvements that are necessary to support the growth and changes brought by such developments. As you are aware, Tinian is currently experiencing considerable military activity, including projects such as the Divert Airfield at West Field and the proposed Commonwealth Joint Military Training activities. These projects involve extensive construction efforts, impacting our island's infrastructure and resources."

According to Aldan, despite these projects' large scale and cost, the municipality has not yet benefited from the tax revenue.

"Despite the immense scale of these military construction activities, our municipality has yet to benefit from the developer's tax revenue. The Divert Airfield project alone, involving the construction of critical facilities and infrastructure upgrades, represents a multi-million-dollar investment. Additionally, the proposed CJMT project will bring even more significant developments. Based on preliminary cost estimates, the total expense of these military construction projects is projected to reach hundreds of millions of dollars. Assessing a 2% tax on these expenditures could yield substantial revenue for Tinian."

Furthermore, he wrote that enforcing the collection of this tax is essential to generating the revenue needed for maintaining and upgrading roadways, enhancing water resource systems, and supporting the demands placed on the island's infrastructure.

"It is imperative that we enforce the collection of this tax from contractors engaged in these military construction projects. The revenues generated are urgently needed to address our island's infrastructure challenges, particularly in maintaining and upgrading our roadways and enhancing our water resource systems. As Tinian continues to be a focal point for strategic military initiatives, our community must have the means to support the demands placed on our infrastructure and ensure the well-being of our residents."

SENATE

From page 1

House for a final vote.

Introduced by Sen. Corina Magofna (Ind-Saipan), the bill is intended to provide some kind of protection for consumers as well as the natural resource (corals) that are being used to prepare lime.

"At this time there's nothing in place that requires the manufacturers or producers of lime to get the product tested to ensure that it is safe for consumers to ingest. So, I just wanted to put that protection in place. I know there is no hard evidence or studies linking lime to oral cancer (which is prevalent here in the CNMI) but I at least wanted to start the process where the *afok* itself is being tested to ensure that there are no foreign ingredients in there that might be harmful to the people who are consuming the product. That's the intent of this proposed legislation," she said.

Essentially the bill focuses on requiring labels on lime being sold to consumers that fully discloses the contents of the substance as well as its effects.

"The bill is really just to ensure that we place some standards as far as labeling where they're being manufactured, where the companies are, I know some of the *afok* right now have labels that state the ingredients and what not but I want to take it a step further and get it tested," she said.

Sen. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota), in support of the bill, said Guam has taken extra steps to ensure lime sold in stores are properly secured and labeled so the CNMI should do the same.

"I noticed in Guam, afok is properly packaged with a sealed unlike here in the CNMI and this is the same vendor that sends to both CNMI and Guam and it's about requiring the extra packaging and security that nothing else gets added in the process. It will provide better safety standards. I support the intent of the legislation and it just provides an extra safeguard for the consumers. This bill is an extra layer of security to ensure that no extra substances are added other that what would be included in the labeling," he said.

Meanwhile Sen. Celina Babauta (D-Saipan) raised concerns about sanitation.

"I agree, however it would be prudent to include some kind of provision in there that the Division of Sanitation would promulgate some kind of regulations to the inspection or the product and handlers of this and also the location of where they're processing this for sanitary reasons it would be prudent to include that in the bill. That's just my recommendation and I hope that's included," she said.

The concern was addressed, and it was included in the bill.

Sen. Dennis Mendiola (R-Rota) also raised concerns about the product's longevity and recommended that manufactured dates be included on lime products sold in store.

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21st Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 14-15

TINIAN—The iconic Tinian Hot Pepper Festival returns to the Marianas for its 21st staging on Feb. 14-15, 2025, with food, fun, and flaming hot spiciness.

Festivities will include food sales, live entertainment, competitions, arts, and crafts sales, and more on the island of Tinian, a 10-minute commuter flight from the capitol island of Saipan. The festival, affectionately known as "Pika Fest" among locals ("pika" means spicy), pays homage to Tinian's small but famous "donni' sali" hot pepper.

"Tinian on President's Day weekend is the place to be," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "How much fun can you pack into a weekend? An amazing beautiful island, friendly people, good food and drinks, live bands and dances, exciting contests, laid back vibe… and a touch of donni' sali as the perfect seasoning. Hotel rooms are filling up fast so grab one today or pack your camping gear for an unforgettable Pika Fest in February!"

The festival will kick off on the evening of Feb. 14 and will continue on Feb. 15 in the evening. The event is organized by the MVA in cooperation with the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan and will once again be held at the Fiesta Grounds in San Jose, Tinian, adjacent to the picturesque Jones Beach and House of Taga, a U.S. National Historic Landmark featuring limestone monoliths carved by ancient Chamorros.

Free camping is available at Jones Beach, Taga Beach (toilets, barbecue pits, and outdoor showers available) and at the adjacent Tachogna Beach (barbecue pits, outdoor showers, and toilets are available). Hotel accommodations are provided by Tinian Ocean View, Tinian Diamond Hotel and Casino, Tinian Diamond Suites, Tinian Western Lodge Hotel, Lorilynn's Hotel, Tinian Street Motel, Fleming Hotel, Green Lion House Hotel, Lucky Homes Hotel, and the Marpo Valley Inn.

MVA

Home cooks prepare their entries for the Estafao (spicy beef stew) Cooking Contest on Feb. 17, 2024, at the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival in the Marianas. The 21st Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority will be held on Feb. 14-15, 2025.

For more information, contact Tinian Field Operations supervisor Vida Borja at vborja@mymarianas.com, MVA Community Projects coordinator Sherman Santos ssantos@mymarianas.com, or (670) 433-9365 or the Tinian Mayor's Office at (670) 433-1802. ***(PR)***

Energy Division to distribute solar-powered LED lights on Rota

The Energy Division, in conjunction with its Energy Education, Efficiency, and Conservation Program efforts, will be distributing one portable solar-powered LED light per residential household to assist residential consumers reduce the energy consumption and electricity costs of their homes and to educate the community about the importance of energy efficiency and conservation efforts in the CNMI.

The portable solar-powered LED light will be available for distribution on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the specified time, while supplies last. The event will be a drive-thru distribution event and will be held this Saturday, Nov. 23, at the Man'amko Center in Sinapalo, Rota from 8am until supplies last.

To avail of a portable solar-powered LED light, residential household consumers must present a copy of a valid government-issued identification card (ID) and a copy of a most recent utility bill with the name on the account. If consumers are renting, please provide a copy of the lease or rental agreement along with the CUC utility bill. If the CUC account is under the landlord's name, a copy of the landlord's valid government-issued identification card (ID) must be provided. If the tenant is sub-metered, the sub-metered number must be provided along with the CUC utility

bill/receipt of the utility bill and a copy of the account holder's valid government-issues identification card (ID).

If a residential homeowner with a CUC account holder's name is unable to participate in the event, a homeowner may designate an authorized person to obtain a portable solar-powered LED light on their behalf. However, an authorization letter must be issued by the homeowner designating a person authorized to obtain the portable solar-powered LED light, along with a copy of a valid government-issued ID of the account holder and the designated person authorized. Businesses, rental property owners, and/or Landlords are not eligible to receive the portable solar-powered LED light.

Additionally, please be sure to follow posted traffic flow signs as instructed. Operators and passengers of motor vehicles must remain in their vehicles at all times. The Division of Energy respectfully requests the cooperation and understanding of the community to strictly observe the following notice:

■ Walk-ins are strictly not allowed and individuals will be turned away.

For additional questions or information regarding this event, you may contact Mardee-Ann Hermosilla, administrative officer, or Daniel Taitano, program coordinator at (670) 664-4480/2.

Funding opportunity for this project is made possible through federal grant funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Energy, State Energy Program-Bi-Partisan Infrastructure law (SEP-BIL). ***(PR)***

CEDA
COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Friday, November 22, 2024

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CEDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2024, AT 1:30 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CEDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CEDA BUILDING, OLEAI SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of Agenda
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. LOAN/LEGAL MATTER – Board Action
  A. Island Development Corporation
IV. CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORT FY 2024 – Board Action
V. QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE (QC) PROGRAM
  A. Review of the application for a QC by J&P Holdings CNMI LLC
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
FRANCISCO M. RABAULIMAN
Chairman, Board of Directors

MARK SCOGGINS
SCOGGINS LAW OFFICE, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC1 U2, 2601 Chalan MSGR Guerrero
Chalan Laulau Village
P.O. Box 501127
Saipan, MP 96950-1127
Telephone Nos.: (670) 234-7455 / 7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256
Email: scogginslawoffice@gmail.com
markascoggins@gmail.com

Attorney for Petitioner.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
FRANCISCO DELEON GUERRERO CABRERA
Deceased.
] Civil Action No. 24-0261
NOTICE OF HEARING and NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Date: December 5, 2024
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Judge: Hon. Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR OF HIS ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, May Ann R. Cabrera, has filed a Petition For Letters of Administration in the above-entitled Estate proceeding pursuant to Rule 15, Com. R. Prob.

A hearing on the petition will be conducted by the Court on Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom 220A, Superior Court. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Pursuant to Rule 21, Com. R. Prob., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Decedent or his Estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to Attorney Mark Scoggins at the above indicated address.

Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.

SO ORDERED this November 15, 2024.

/S/
HON. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO, Associate Judge
CNMI Superior Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: THOMAS MASGA MENDIOLA,
Decedent.
] Civil Action No.: 21-0140
NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Decree of Final Distribution in the aboveentitled probate matter will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 5th day of December, 2024, at 10:00a.m. at the NMI Superior Court Courtroom 220A, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the petition should not be granted.

Dated this 29th day of October, 2024.

/s/
Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

Domingo Atalig Ulloa
PO Box 603 Rota, MP 96951
(670)286-3698
(670)285-8036

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Adoption of:
D.A.U.M. (DOB: 03/25/2019)
Minor Child,
By:
Domingo Atalig Ulloa
Petitioner.
] FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0339
AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on December 6, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Rota Centron Hustisia, before Associate Judge Lillian Ada Tenorio.

Dated this 20th day of November, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

AMIM

Tinian mayor and Association of Mariana Island Mayors president Edwin P. Aldan presided over a series of AMIM plenary sessions last Nov. 15 in Hagat, Guam.

AMIM plenary sessions focus on funding opportunities, regional collaboration

HAGAT, Guam—The Association of Mariana Island Mayors convened for a series of plenary sessions on Nov. 15, presided over by Tinian mayor and AMIM president Edwin P. Aldan. The sessions provided a forum for crucial discussions on funding opportunities and strategic regional collaboration.

Aldan used the meeting to inform his fellow mayors about significant grant opportunities available through the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation. The OLDCC is a Department of Defense organization that supports communities affected by defense activities by providing grants to enhance infrastructure, economic diversification, and other needs in areas impacted by military installations.

During his remarks, Aldan emphasized the unique situation in the CNMI, particularly on Tinian, where areas "outside the fence" are adjacent to or integrated with Tinian infrastructure. While OLDCC funding for fiscal year 2024 has been allocated to the Governor's Office, Aldan expressed optimism, sharing that Tinian has been identified as a priority for future funding. He remains hopeful that the municipality will receive financial support from OLDCC to address community needs linked to military presence.

Aldan also underscored the importance of AMIM's continued partnership with key military commands, including Joint Region Marianas and the United States Indo-Pacific Command or USINDOPACOM. He suggested that maintaining strong ties with these organizations would ensure that Mariana Island communities are well-informed about ongoing and upcoming military activities in the Pacific region. This, he added, would enable local governments to seize opportunities that could benefit residents and foster sustainable growth.

The plenary sessions concluded with a reaffirmation of the mayors' commitment to collaboration and shared progress for the Mariana Islands. ***(PR)***

US Labor seeks to distribute wages owed to workers with its online 'WOW' tool

DEDEDO, Guam—With the year coming to an end, the U.S. Department of Labor is eager to return $203,978 in wages recovered by its Wage and Hour Division's Honolulu District Office to 157 workers who have earned them and encourages people to use the Workers Owed Wages online tool.

WHO: Anyone who believes they may be owed back wages or knows someone who may be owed wages are encouraged to use the Workers Owed Wages online tool.

WHAT: The laws enforced by the Wage and Hour Division provide the foundation for U.S. workers' rights, including the rights to be paid legally required wages and other important protections. Among the division's top priorities is putting wages recovered by its investigations swiftly into the hands of people who earned them. The "WOW" online tool provides workers a quick and easy way to verify if they are eligible to claim wages an employer or former employer may owe them. The tool is available in English and Spanish.

WHERE: The Honolulu District Office is responsible for back wage distribution in Guam.

WHEN: Now. Anyone who believes they may be owed wages are encouraged to use the WOW tool as the year comes to an end.

LINK: Anyone who uses the WOW search tool can simply input their current or former employer's name to learn if the division is holding wages on their behalf. ***(PR)***

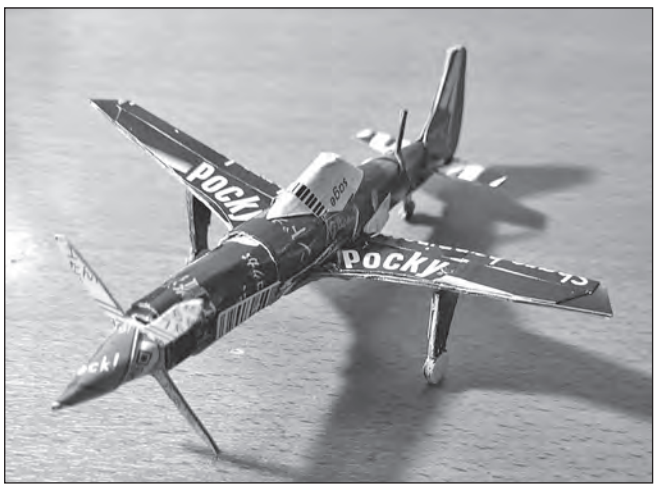
UOG Isla Center for the Arts presents 'Creative Hands' exhibition

The UOG Isla Center for the Arts will hold Creative Hands: Selected Works by Pacific Artists from Dec. 5, 2024 to Jan. 24, 2025.

Creative Hands: Selected Works by Pacific Artists is a biennial juried exhibition with Kaitlin Pomerantz serving as the juror for the exhibition.

Pomerantz holds a BA in Art History and Visual Art from the University of Chicago, an MFA in Interdisciplinary Art with a Teaching Certificate from the University of Pennsylvania, and an Ed.M in Arts in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

She is a resident critic in the MFA Program in The School of Visual Arts, a Sachs Course Development Grant recipient and instructor at the University of Pennsylvania and is a seminar instructor at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.



UOG

Juror Kaitlin Pomerantz selected Pocky Plane (cardboard) by Raiki Leon Guerrero as "Best-in-Show" for Creative Hands: Selected Works by Pacific Artists, an upcoming exhibition hosted by the Isla Center for the Arts at the University of Guam. The exhibit opens on Thursday, Dec. 5.

She has participated in numerous exhibitions, is represented in several collections, and also curates displays. For more information about our juror, see http://www.kaitlinpomerantz.com/.

The Isla Center for the Arts received 184 submissions from 27 artists for consideration. Pomerantz selected 39 works created by 16 artists for the exhibition. After her selection process, she subtitled the exhibition "Surprise."

As stated in her juror's statement: "Art serves many functions. It can bear witness to reality, envision new realities, embody self and collective expression, transform materials, document history, predict the future, and more. The selected artworks in this show are united by their capacity to surprise. To be surprised is to be confronted with the unexpected and jolted out of one's pattern of thinking and expectations. The works in this show are visual and material surprises, leaving viewers with a sense of wonder in the infinite possibilities and permutations of the sensory world."

The selected artists include: Addy's Custom Crafts, Alyanna M. Barrera, Trexie Berondo, Judy Flores, Keiko Flynn, Alison Hadley, Raiki Leon Guerrero, Chie Numano, Nine, Madison Orland, Lia Park, Yeon Sook Park, Dawn Lees Reyes, Rioanne Simeon, Julius Sotomayor, and Stanley Verroya.

UOG

Creative Hands: Selected Works by Pacific Artists is an upcoming exhibition at the University of Guam Isla Center for the Arts. Arriving Manila (acrylic) by Julius Sotomayor was selected among 184 submissions from 27 artists for the exhibit and received an "Honorable Mention" by juror Kaitlin Pomerantz. Creative Hands opens on Thursday, Dec. 5.

Pomerantz selected the following as Best-in-Show and honorable mentions:

Best-in-Show:

■ Pocky Plane (cardboard) by Raiki Leon Guerrero

Honorable mentions:

■ Wait (digital photography) by Alison Hadley

■ Blood Rises: Submerge (mixed media sculpture) by Alyanna Barrera To be Determined (mixed media sculpture) by Alyanna Barrera

■ Challenger Deep, Marianas Trench (mixed media) by Chie Numano

■ Mae's Store Inalahan (batik) by Judy Flores

■ Arriving Manila (acrylic) by Julius Sotomayor

An opening reception for Creative Hands: Selected Works by Pacific Artists will be on Thursday, Dec. 5, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. The event will be held at the Isla Center for the Arts located at #15 Dean's Circle, on the University of Guam Campus.

Refreshments will be served. There is no admission fee, but donations are appreciated. The exhibition will be on display from Dec. 5, 2024 to Jan. 24, 2025. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday 10am-5pm, Saturdays 10am-2pm, closed on Sundays and holidays. Admission is free but donations are appreciated.

For more information, call (671) 735-2965 or email islacenter@gmail.com. A link to photos of the Best-in-Show and the Honorable mentions is here: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rtnlx5hajr8gQCdOzDHsk5P1_CuD1F5n?usp=sharing. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-25-003

CONSTRUCTION OF AS MATUIS TEMPORARY TANK

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of **a temporary water tank in As Matuis.**

The project consists of a temporary water tank in As Matuis with the furnishing of all labor, supervision, equipment and materials for a new temporary fiberglass tank located in As Matuis. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in Two Hundred Seventy (270) calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **November 26, 2024 at 1:00 PM (CHST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hardcopies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-25-003, Construction of As Matuis Temporary Tank" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (CHST) on December 19, 2024,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (CHST) on December 3, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address, manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, P&S, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON
Executive Director

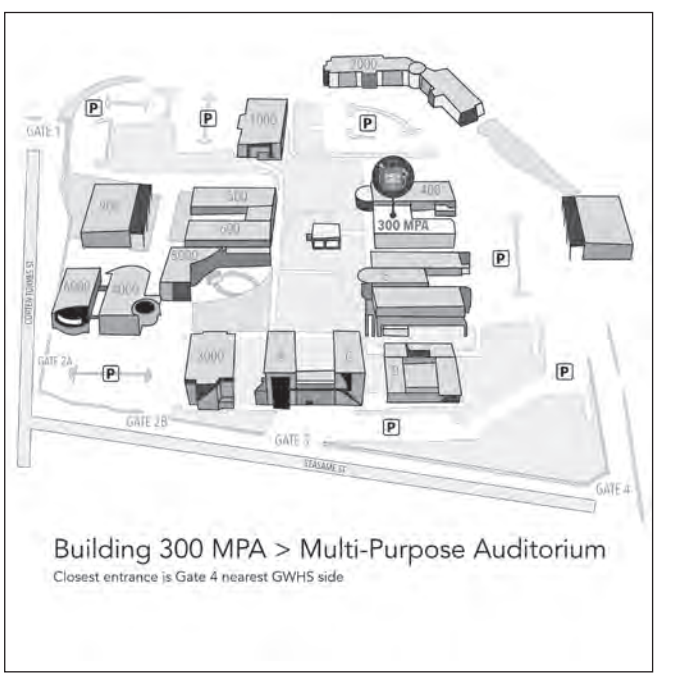
MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

GCC's 6th biannual Show & Sell Event today

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—The Business & Visual Communications Department at Guam Community College is excited to announce its 6th biannual "Show & Sell" event, Classroom 2 Commerce—a dynamic marketplace featuring GCC student entrepreneurs. This exciting event will be held on Friday, Nov. 22, 2024, from 10am to 2pm, at the Multi-Purpose Auditorium (Building 300) on the GCC campus.

The event will highlight a diverse range of creative and innovative student vendors from introductory, social media, and advertising marketing courses. These student entrepreneurs will showcase their unique products and services, offering fresh, locally-inspired creations that reflect the vibrancy and entrepreneurial spirit of Guam.

GCC students and the island community are invited to support aspiring business owners at "Show & Sell," Classroom 2 Commerce, an event showcasing a diverse range of handcrafted goods to multimedia creators. It offers students real-world experience, a chance to develop entrepreneurial skills, and an inspiring platform to network, collaborate, and explore new ventures.



GCC

The map to the Business & Visual Communications Department's 6th biannual "Show & Sell" event, Classroom 2 Commerce set today at the Guam Community College.

The event is free admission to all GCC students and the island community.

For more information, contact Nita Cepeda, event chair and instructor in the Business & Visual Communications Department at (671) 482-9779 or email nitajeannette.cepeda@guamcc.edu.

Guam Community College is committed to providing quality education and training opportunities to support the economic and social development of Guam. Through a variety of academic programs and partnerships, GCC prepares students for success in the workforce and lifelong learning. ***(PR)***

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STOCK #L7043866, FWD 2.0L, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 41,400, Color: BLUE
$16,995

NOW $15,895

2020 NISSAN VERSA SV
STOCK # LL918897, FWD 1.6L, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 34,583, Color: GRAY
$17,505

NOW $15,888

2013 NISSAN X-TERRA PRO-4X
STOCK # DN813073, 4X4, 4.0L 6CYL AUTO
Est. Mileage: 30,557, Color: GRAY
$23,995

NOW $15,888

2018 MAZDA CX5 SPORT
STOCK # J0423663, FWD 2.5L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 33,515, Color: SILVER
$20,505

NOW $16,895

2019 NISSAN ROGUE S
STOCK # KW261742, FWD 2.5L, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 47,960, Color: GRAY
$19,888

NOW $18,888

2020 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SPORT
STOCK # LU037795, FWD, 1.6L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 6,810, Color: BLACK
$23,000

NOW $18,888

2022 KIA SOUL LX
STOCK #N7170516, FWD, 2.0L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 23,103, Color: BLACK W/ RED ROOF
$21,995

NOW $18,888

2021 HYUNDAI ELANTRA N-LINE
STOCK # MU179212, FWD 1.6L, MANUAL
Est. Mileage: 17,869, Color: RED
$22,888

NOW $19,888

2019 HONDA CIVIC LX
STOCK # KE001456, FWD, 2.0L, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 56,158, Color: WHITE
$20,995

NOW $20,505

2021 NISSAN ROGUE SPORT SV
STOCK # MW320474, FWD 2.5L, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 15,447, Color: RED
$22,995

NOW $20,505

2017 NISSAN ARMADA PLATINUM
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Est. Mileage: 62,225, Color: WHITE
23,505

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 234

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

For Pete's sake: Pete Hegseth has a steep hill to climb to be defense secretary

Is an inexperienced manager with no history running anything, no less the biggest single federal government agency, the right person to be in charge of the Pentagon? Say hello to Donald Trump's nomination of Pete Hegseth to be secretary of defense.

Senators—majority Republicans, newly led by John Thune of South Dakota, and minority Democrats alike—have a duty to rigorously test Hegseth's management capacity. There's only so much such tires can be kicked in the course of hearings, but senators have a responsibility to test his understanding of the infamous Pentagon bureaucracy and his leadership instincts atop the org chart.

What has fueled Hegseth's rise to prominence is punditry. For the past decade, he's been a contributor and commentator on Fox News, where he's railed against what he sees as a "woke military." He's published ideological tracts called "The War on Warriors" and "Battle for the American Mind."

Unlike his predecessors running the Pentagon, Hegseth has no experience as a manager—not in the military, not in any other large organization. This counts as a major liability given that the Department of Defense spends a cool$850 billion per year, and its military and civilian staff is 3.4 million strong.

What does Hegseth think about the Defense Department budget? Before Trump's first term, Republicans claimed President Obama had "gutted" the military. Never mind that Trump, decrying a military he claimed had been gutted under Obama, pushed the largest Defense budget in U.S. history even as he cut taxes on the wealthy, one of the big reasons budget deficits spiked.

Trump is now enlisting two super rich men, Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy, to lead a government efficiency panel to identify waste. Given that the DOD is where more discretionary money goes than any other department, it ought to be in the center of the crosshairs. Where would Hegseth aim?

Senators simultaneously have a duty to probe Hegseth's positions on issues vital to America's role in the world and to the well-being of the men and women who serve in the military. We said men and women. Women make up 17.5% of the military's active-duty force and nearly 22% of the reserves. That includes thousands of women who serve in combat specialties that before 2015 they'd been barred from accessing.

Days ago, Hegseth proclaimed: "I'm straight up saying we should not have women in combat roles." If the secretary wants no women in combat and thousands are already so serving, this is a conflict—one that in this case, a "don't ask, don't tell" workaround won't be able to solve.

And what would Hegseth say if Trump seeks to use the military to carry out the largest mass deportation operation in U.S. history? Deploying troops on American soil for such a purpose is almost certainly illegal under federal law, and carries with it a whole host of serious risks. Does Hegseth know the law and understand these risks?

And what exactly was Hegseth thinking when in 2019 he successfully lobbied Trump to pardon servicemembers who had been accused of war crimes? If men in combat (no women, should Hegseth get his way) kill civilians on purpose, would he, as DOD secretary, urge the military justice system the other way? The seat in the Senate committee room should be hotter than the one in the Fox News studio.

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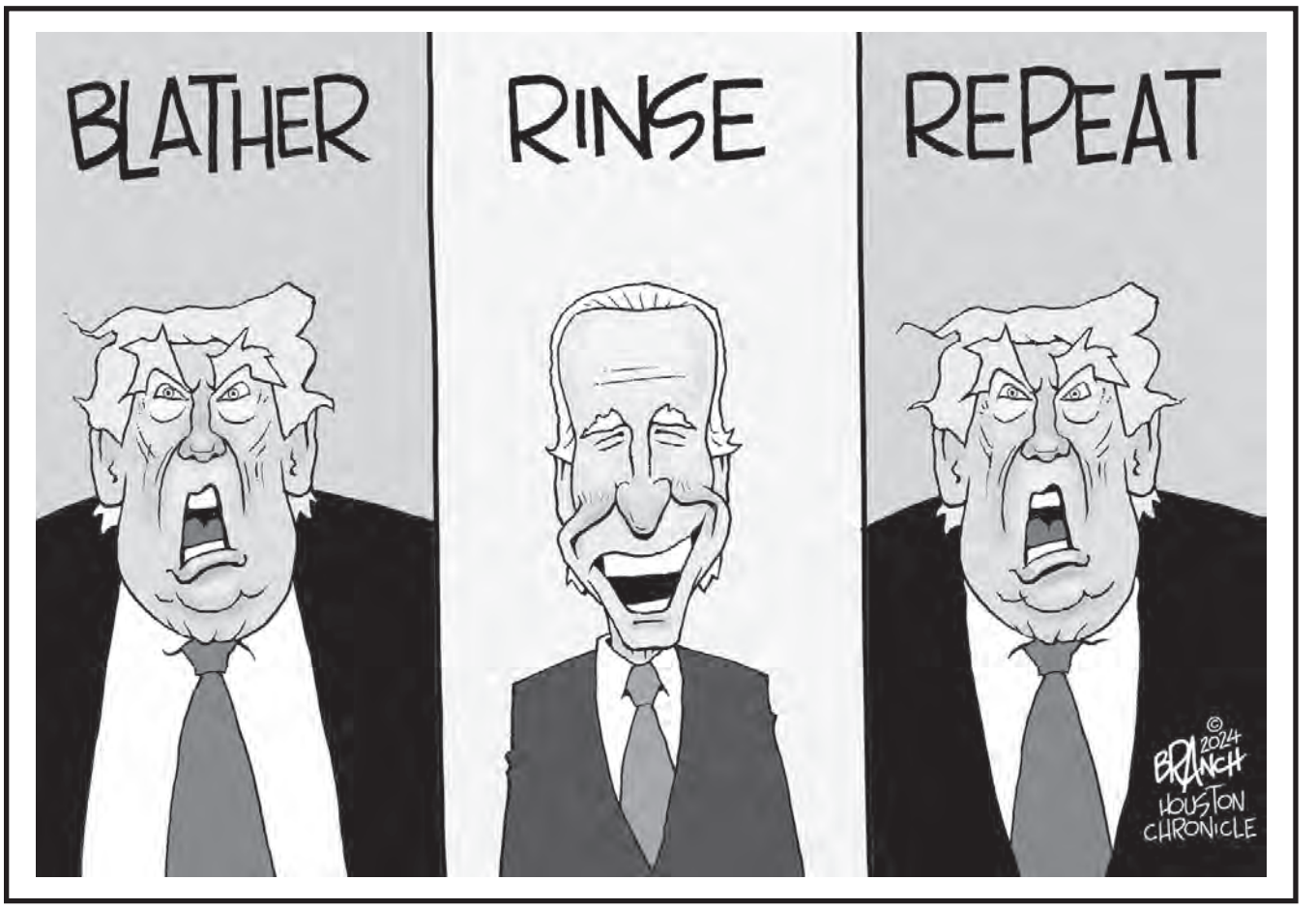


Trump's worst Cabinet picks aren't just unqualified, they're part of a bigger power grab

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

At first glance, President-elect Donald Trump's most controversial Cabinet nominees—Matt Gaetz, Pete Hegseth, Tulsi Gabbard and Robert F. Kennedy Jr.—are an odd list of ideologues and eccentrics chosen for political loyalty more than any substantive qualifications.

But there's a more important and potentially more dangerous factor that ties their nominations together: They are foot soldiers in a power grab that, if it succeeds, would weaken the institutional guardrails that limit the president's powers and concentrate more authority in Trump's hands.

Former Rep. Gaetz, Trump's nominee for attorney general, has promised to purge the Justice Department and FBI of anyone who might get in the president's way. Trump "is going to hit the Department of Justice with a blowtorch—and that torch is Matt Gaetz," former Trump aide Stephen K. Bannon said last week.

Hegseth, the Fox News host who could become Defense secretary, has proposed purging military officers he sees as too committed to diversity, including Gen. C.Q. Brown Jr., the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "The Pentagon likes to say our diversity is our strength," Hegseth said on Fox News in June. "What a bunch of garbage." ("Pete's a leader," Bannon said. "He's kind of a madman—but hey, you need that.")

Former Rep. Gabbard, who as director of National Intelligence would oversee the CIA and 17 other agencies, has criticized the Biden administration's support for Ukraine so fervently that a Russian state television host once called her "our girlfriend."

And Kennedy, the anti-vaccine activist who is Trump's nominee for Health and Human Services, has said he wants to fire hundreds of senior officials in the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health on "day one." Trump has encouraged him to "go wild."

Their pledges are all in keeping with Trump's broader promise to dismantle much of the federal bureaucracy and bring what remains under his personal control.

"We will demolish the deep state," the president-elect often said at his campaign rallies, "We will throw off the sick political class that hates our country."

During his first term, Trump often expressed frustration at the legal and political limits on what he could do as president.

In 2018, he expressed an expansive view of his powers under the Constitution: "I have an Article II, where I have the right to do whatever I want."

But in practice, he found himself hemmed in by experienced Cabinet officials, White House lawyers and military officers, some of whom dubbed themselves "the adults in the room."

His attorneys general, Jeff Sessions and Bill Barr, quietly sidelined his demands that they prosecute Hillary Clinton and other top Democrats.

His last Defense secretary, Mark Esper, and his appointee as chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Gen. Mark A. Milley, resisted his proposal in 2020 to invoke the Insurrection Act and deploy active duty troops against demonstrators in Washington and other cities.

Trump also denounced the CIA and other intelligence agencies for their finding that Russia interfered in the 2016 election campaign to help him defeat Clinton—a judgment he seemed to consider partisan, rather than based on the evidence.

So it's no surprise that he wants to bring those national security agencies to heel.

But Trump's plans to expand his personal authority extend much further.

He has vowed to weaken civil service rules that protect federal bureaucrats from being fired if they disagree with their bosses' decisions. "We will pass critical reforms making every executive branch employee fireable by the president," he said last year, adding: "I will wield that power very aggressively."

Robert Shea, a former top official in the George W. Bush administration, explained the real world impact. "If you told your boss that what he or she was proposing was illegal, impractical [or] unwise, they could brand you as disloyal and terminate you," he said.

The result would be what one expert called "transformation by intimidation."

Trump has also proposed weakening Congress' power to direct federal spending—one of the legislative branch's core functions.

He plans to revive the practice of "impounding" funds—blocking agencies from spending money that Congress has appropriated for programs he doesn't like.

That tactic could enable him, for example, to stop parts of Pres-

See TRUMP on Page 11

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Truth 70: Same-o same-o and our future and greatness!

By AMBROSE M. BENNETT
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ambrose M. Bennett is an economist who minored in sociology, political scientist, a retired teacher, and former CNMI Board of Education member, a James Madison Fellow (U.S. constitutional scholar), a Fulbright-Hays and lifetime humanities scholar who resides in Kagman III in the CNMI.

The truth of the matter is we are continuing to experience the same-old-you know what which amounts to nothing going forward with taxes being the talk of the town. More than anything I hoped and wanted to see Arnold become a great governor but when he was afraid to even try reading from a teleprompter for his inauguration was my first signs of doubt. Now we are two years in and still taya new on the horizon for the people. I knew the 902 talks would be just that "talks" and now it seems they were completely worthless with a different administration taking over America. It is also obvious to me that our governor was putting a lot of his stock in the military to come and save our economy, which ain't going to happen anytime soon, thus we are right back where we started two years ago and even worse off for those who had to suffer under austerity. It's very apparent now that our governor is just going through the motions of governing while we experience the same-old dysfunctional government when it comes to rebuilding our economy and the Legislature is following the governor's lead with only a little bit here and a little bit there when we need to be taking some giant leaps for real!

While I understand the genuine need to give MACS a tax break, it should not be for 25 years, as five years is more than enough time for a business to establish itself because if it isn't successful after five years then MACS and governor we have a problem. It is totally unreasonable to give them a 25-year tax break and for CEDA to be the so-called experts who refused to even give me a grace period with my trike business forcing me to make payments with the money they loaned me before the trikes even arrived on island—pathetic and favoritism for MACS. I have to laugh to keep from crying especially when CEDA does not have a real economist on staff unless they were just hire and if so we the people want to know who to hold accountable! CEDA hasn't done anything to lead in our economic infrastructure and reforms, just made loans and not offering any professional assistance to loanees. The governor is aware of my appeals for him to identify who our economist is, and I guess this is his effort to shift the blame, as I'm sure it has been him and his Lt. making the poor and even nonexistent economic decisions that have gotten us the same-old you know what. Maybe next election the majority will finally had enough of Republicans, especially if Democrats can get their act together with a full slate of candidates!

Rehabilitation before incarceration

By GREG BORJA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Greg Borja is the executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc.

I have read in the news lately that there is a common sentiment that people with mental health needs here in the CNMI need to go to jail for causing a nuisance in the community. I for one do not believe that this is the correct course of action to take for these individuals.

Just because a person walks down the street talking to themselves doesn't mean they are doing something different that anyone else does. Look at the people who talk on their phones on speaker in restaurants or in stores. To me they are also creating a nuisance and disturbing the peace, but everyone acts as if that is the "normal" thing to do and they are not arrested.

There was a program on PBS about 20 years ago called *The New Asylums* in which jails and prisons across the nation saw an increase in the number of incarcerated individuals diagnosed (or undiagnosed) with mental illness. Many of the individuals that entered the criminal justice system did so because the treatment services were better than what was available in their communities. Here in the CNMI, I would argue it is the opposite. While there are few programs in corrections designed to assist individuals with mental health needs, there is in fact a need for more support in the community to address the rise in mental health diagnoses.

Whenever I have encounters with people asking me for money, I simply tell them, "No" and they leave me alone. Several who approach me I have known for years and I am aware they have a mental health diagnosis, but others are able-bodied and competent. Now, I do agree that, when individuals commit crimes, they should be held responsible for them. All I'm asking for is appropriate rehabilitation for their illness, before we rehabilitate them for their crime.

We have seen an increase in available services for individuals who struggle with substance use and even mental health (i.e., drug court and mental health court), but to avail of these programs one must first commit a crime. If we examine these programs closely, they are designed to keep individuals out of correctional institutions. The CNMI should be looking for increased funding to support community living for people with mental health needs, rather than throwing them in jail.

There was a follow up *to The New Asylums* called *The Released* that addressed what happens when individuals are released from a correctional institution: they tend to continue their behaviors while on the outside and wind up back in the system. Again, here in the CNMI the Department of Corrections is not the appropriate place for providing treatment.

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc fights for the rights of individuals with disabilities, including those with mental health needs, to ensure they are recognized as having the same rights as any other person. NMPASI nurtures an atmosphere of treating people with dignity and respect, that includes when they are involved in the criminal justice system or in the community.

For more information about the PBS documentaries, please visit:

- https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/documentary/showsasylums/
- https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/documentary/released/

For more information on your rights as a person with a mental health diagnosis, contact the Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) program at NMPASI at (670) 235-7273, visit us online at www.nmpasi.org, or visit us at the Marianas Business Plaza-Room 505.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Heartfelt gratitude

Dear Gov. Palacios,

We write on behalf of Kánnai Komunidat-Payúur Toulap to express our heartfelt gratitude for your leadership and decision to sign Senate Bill 23-37, SD1, HD, entitled, "To mandate the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to change power, water and wastewater rate for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation rate to commercial rate; and all other purposes" into law.

Your commitment to advancing the well-being of our community is deeply appreciated, and this legislation is a testament to your dedication to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This measure promises significant benefits for CHCC and the broader community. By reducing utility costs, the law alleviates a substantial financial burden, enabling CHCC to allocate more of its resources to critical services such as medical equipment procurement, facility upgrades, and the recruitment of healthcare professionals. This will enhance the quality of care and strengthen the foundation of healthcare infrastructure in the CNMI. Moreover, with improved financial flexibility, CHCC will be better positioned to address public health challenges, respond effectively to emergencies, and expand preventative care initiatives. This is a transformative step forward that will positively impact the health and well-being of all residents while fostering operational efficiency and long-term sustainability within CHCC.

Your decision also underscores the government's dedication to equitable resource distribution, ensuring that essential services like healthcare are not hindered by disproportionate utility costs.

Additionally, this opens the door for CHCC to explore sustainable infrastructure investments, promoting environmental stewardship while reducing operational expenses.

By enacting this legislation, you have demonstrated a deep understanding of the critical issues facing our community. Your decisive action inspires confidence in the continued growth and prosperity of the CNMI, and your leadership sets a strong example of governance for the benefit of all.

Once again, thank you for your unwavering commitment to our islands. If there is any way we or others in the community can assist in supporting the implementation of this law, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Candice Muña
Chair

Alexandra C. Villagomez
Secretary

Analee C. Villagomez
Member

TRUMP

From page 10

ident Biden's clean energy program from being implemented, even though Congress has already approved the expenditures.

A 1974 law made impoundment illegal, but Trump has suggested that he will ignore the prohibition and challenge it in court.

And, of course, Trump warned the Senate last week that if it refuses to confirm any of his Cabinet nominees, he may put them in office anyway—by using "recess appointments," which allow a president to fill top jobs when Congress isn't in session.

And if the Congress doesn't recess, Trump may have another norm-shattering gambit in reserve. In his first term, he threatened to adjourn both chambers under a presidential power laid out in the Constitution for "extraordinary occasions."

That wouldn't just test the guardrails on a president's powers, it would "crash through them," wrote Michael Waldman of the Brennan Center for Justice.

That makes it all the more important that Republicans in the Senate, to preserve their constitutional powers, subject Trump's nominees to searching scrutiny and reject any that are unqualified, dangerous or both.

Those controversial nominations will decide more than the future of the Justice Department, the Defense Department, the intelligence community and the vast Department of Health and Human Services—although those stakes are high enough.

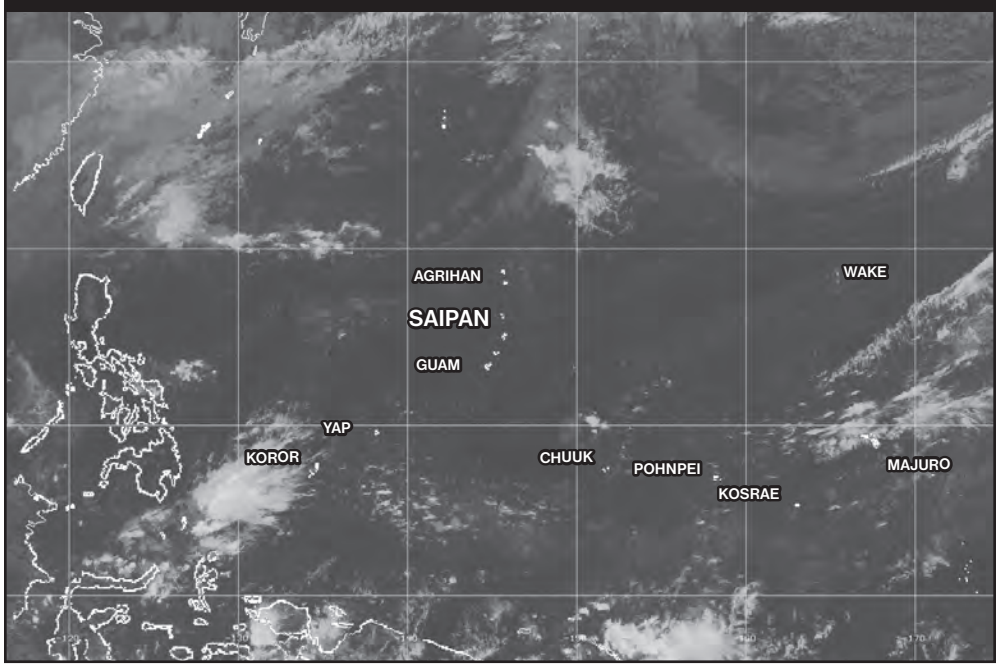
They will help determine whether Trump can undo the checks and balances the founders wrote into the Constitution, and turn the executive branch into an instrument of a would-be autocrat's will.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny. East wind 11 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.	Mostly sunny. East wind 11 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.	Mostly sunny.	Mostly sunny.	Partly sunny.
87° 77°	87° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:59 AM THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Seas are starting to build up for the weekend, so a foot was added to the combined seas. Seas may become a concern over the weekend but for now just slightly rougher seas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Sunny	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Sunny	85° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy/Wind	69° / 57°
Beijing	Fair	59° / 35°
Hong Kong	Light Rain	66° / 62°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 70°
London	Cloudy	57° / 54°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	84° / 61°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	93° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	90° / 63°
Miami	Thunderstorms	80° / 69°
New York	Cloudy	58° / 53°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	65° / 49°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	52° / 43°
Busan	Sunny	61° / 43°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	63° / 48°
Salem	Cloudy	64° / 48°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	68° / 54°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	55° / 38°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	54° / 46°
Washington, DC	Showers in the Vicinity	64° / 50°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Saturday	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Sunday	6:23 AM	5:43 PM
Monday	6:23 AM	5:43 PM
Tuesday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:02 PM	11:46 PM
Saturday	-	12:40 PM	-
Sunday	12:34 AM	1:15 PM	-
Monday	1:21 AM	1:48 PM	-
Tuesday	2:06 AM	2:20 PM	-

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
6:21 AM	Low Tide	-0.17
2:20 PM	High Tide	1.63
8:12 PM	Low Tide	1.10
11:31 PM	High Tide	1.25

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	1:20PM	4:00PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	2:30AM	6:25AM	Daily
7C3212	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	3:05AM	5:55AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	10:05PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	00:40AM	6:25AM	3, 6
PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	10:55PM	4:40AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184	00:40AM	8:50AM	3, 6 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3407	11:20PM	3:30PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3211	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	8:00PM	1:30AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

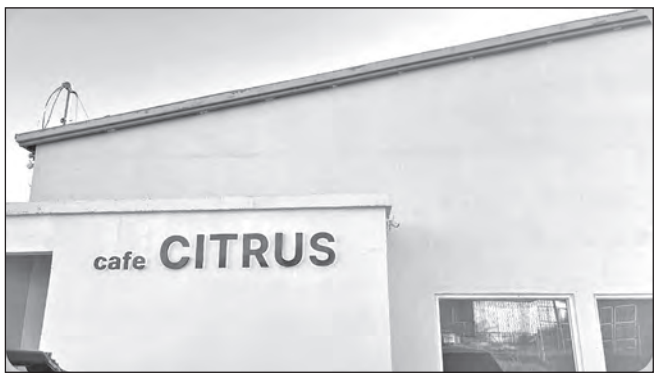
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Freshly squeezed delights at Café Citrus



JERCY DIANA MAXIMO

Café Citrus is located at Chalan Tun Joaquin Doi, Fina Sisu, across Cool Market.

By JERCY DIANA MAXIMO
jercymaximo05@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

JERCY DIANA MAXIMO

Café Citrus' iced caramel macchiato and the matcha crème brûlée cheesecake.

Amidst the calm allure of Fina Sisu, Café Citrus is a dazzling haven that offers locals new tastes and meaningful interactions. Since opening on July 25, 2024, this cozy café has been delighting locals with its handcrafted desserts and innovative drinks, quickly earning a reputation as the go-to spot for a little taste of happiness.

At the helm of this vibrant space is general manager Sua Kim, a passionate 26-year-old who oversees all aspects of the café's operations. Originally from South Korea, Sua has lived on Saipan since elementary school and completed her education here through college. Her background is in business administration with an accounting concentration, which, while unrelated to culinary arts, laid the foundation for her venture into the café business.

Over the years, she developed her culinary skills through various professional courses, combining her love for desserts with her passion for creating a welcoming space to build Café Citrus from the ground up.

"My approach to this business was shaped by my deep passion for baking, which I've had since I was young. Baking has always been a source of comfort for me, and it was something I turned to whenever I needed relaxation or a creative outlet," said Kim.

Launching a café is no easy task, especially during uncertain economic times. For this determined individual, the biggest challenge was "finding the perfect balance of flavor and sweetness in my desserts and drinks." Months of experimentation and valuable feedback from friends and family paid off, resulting in a menu designed to delight every palate.

"My approach to the café is centered around the idea of offering more than just food—I want to provide an experience that allows customers to unwind and feel at home," said Kim. "I believe Café Citrus stands out from other local cafés because we focus on providing not only high-quality desserts and drinks but also a unique experience. We strive to offer innovative and new dessert combinations, especially in our macarons and cookies. Additionally, our café features a spacious and bright atmosphere, making it an ideal place for gatherings and events," she said.

Her goal? To create "a small escape where people can relax, enjoy good food, and connect with others." Café Citrus offers a menu that combines quality ingredients with a creative twist. Signature drinks like the Earl Grey Vanilla Latte and the Strawberry Latte topped with rose-infused foam highlight the café's commitment to unique, handcrafted beverages made with in-house syrups and purees.

Dessert lovers will find joy in the rotating selection of macarons and cookies, offering flavor combinations that are rare on Saipan, ensuring there's always something new to try.

With its bright and spacious interior, Café Citrus is more than just a café—it's an experience. Whether you're looking for a quiet corner to recharge or a lively spot to catch up with friends, this café is designed to feel like a refreshing oasis. "We want customers to feel relaxed, refreshed, and uplifted—like they've discovered a little slice of joy in their day," the owner explains.

Though the menu currently lacks gluten-free and vegan options, Kim emphasizes, "As of now, we do not have gluten-free or vegan dessert options available. However, we are actively working on developing these options to better cater to our customers' needs and preferences."

Located at Chalan Tun Joaquin Doi in Fina Sisu, Café Citrus is conveniently across from Cool Market. For more information or to place an order, you can reach them through WhatsApp at (670) 483-7125, or follow them on Instagram at @cafe_citrus.

With its focus on fresh flavors, warm hospitality, and creating a space for meaningful moments, Café Citrus is more than just a café—it's a celebration of joy in every sip and bite.

JERCY DIANA MAXIMO

Café Citrus features a bright, minimalist design with white walls, white tables and chairs, and small plants that add a fresh, calming vibe.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB25-DPW/TSD-42500012

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 06, 2024 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"A.) PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS "E" VEHICLES B.) PURCHASE OF THREE (3) CLASS "F" VEHICLES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, TECHNICAL SERVICE DIVISION (HIGHWAY SECTION), SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG. NO. 12386, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, MS. LORRAINE S. VILLAGOMEZ AT LVILLAGOMEZ.HIGHWAY@DPW.GOV.MP OR KENN ALDAN AT KLADPWTSD@GMAIL.COM.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/RAY N. YUMUL
Secretary, DPW

/S/ GERALDINE T. CRUZ
Acting Director, PS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-008-25
SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 03, 2024: 4:00 P.M.

"TROUBLESHOOT, REPAIR, REPLACE, AND UPGRADE MULTIPLE CORE COMPONENTS OF THE PUBLIC ADDRESS (PA) SYSTEM AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"

THE BID PACKAGE AND OTHER CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING NOVEMBER 01, 2024 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "TROUBLESHOOT, REPAIR, REPLACE AND UPGRADE MULTIPLE CORE COMPONENTS OF THE PA SYSTEM **(RFP-008-25)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 4:00 P.M., DECEMBER 03, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

WENDI PRATER DATE: NOVEMBER 01, 2024
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
RUNWAY REHABILITATION REPACKAGING PROJECT
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-004-20 (AIP PENDING)

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT FACILITATOR

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is seeking statements of qualifications from qualified and experienced firms (individually or collectively) to provide professional consulting services for Safety Risk Management (SRM) facilitation support, in conjunction with the upcoming Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Runway Rehabilitation Repackaging Project, No. CPA-SA-004-20 (AIP pending).

The project is being funded by U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA's CIP Administrator, at wprater@cnmiports.com.

Questions regarding this solicitation must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater via the email address above or may be hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, Friday, December 13, 2024.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2024.** It is preferable that statements of qualification be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ LEO B. TUDELA Date: November 15, 2024
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
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P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-25

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 03, 2024 (2:00 P.M.)

"ACQUISITION, PROGRAMMING, & COMMISSIONING OF FIFTEEN (15) BRAND NEW UNITS OF INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT"

THE BID PACKAGE AND OTHER CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING NOVEMBER 01, 2024 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "ACQUISITION, PROGRAMMING, & COMMISSIONING OF FIFTEEN (15) BRAND NEW UNITS OF INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT **(IFB-003-25)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., DECEMBER 03, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

WENDI PRATER DATE: _____
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nation

Trump calls for dismantling of ED

Trump

WASHINGTON (AP)—Throughout his campaign, President-elect Donald Trump heaped scorn on the federal Department of Education, describing it as being infiltrated by " radicals, zealots and Marxists."

He has picked Linda McMahon, a former wrestling executive, to lead the department. But like many conservative politicians before him, Trump has called for dismantling the department altogether—a cumbersome task that likely would require action from Congress.

The agency's main role is financial. Annually, it distributes billions in federal money to colleges and schools and manages the federal student loan portfolio. Closing the department would mean redistributing each of those duties to another agency. The Education Department also plays an important regulatory role in services for students, ranging from those with disabilities to low-income and homeless kids.

Indeed, federal education money is central to Trump's plans for colleges and schools. Trump has vowed to cut off federal money for schools and colleges that push "critical race theory, transgender insanity, and other inappropriate racial, sexual or political content" and to reward states and schools that end teacher tenure and enact universal school choice programs.

Federal funding makes up a relatively small portion of public school budgets—roughly 14%. Colleges and universities are more reliant on it, through research grants along with federal financial aid that helps students pay their tuition.

Here is a look at some of the department's key functions, and how Trump has said he might approach them.

The Education Department manages approximately $1.5 trillion in student loan debt for over 40 million borrowers. It also oversees the Pell Grant, which provides aid to students below a certain income threshold, and administers the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which universities use to allocate financial aid.

The Biden administration has made cancellation of student loans a signature effort of the department's work. Since Biden's initial attempt to cancel student loans was overturned by the Supreme Court, the administration has forgiven over $175 billion for more than 4.8 million borrowers through a range of changes to programs it administers, such as Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

» Here's what that would mean

The loan forgiveness efforts have faced Republican pushback, including litigation from several GOP-led states.

Trump has criticized Biden's efforts to cancel debt as illegal and unfair, calling it a "total catastrophe" that "taunted young people." Trump's plan for student debt is uncertain: He has not put out detailed plans.

Through its Office for Civil Rights, the Education Department conducts investigations and issues guidance on how civil rights laws should be applied, such as for LGBTQ+ students and students of color. The office also oversees a large data collection project that tracks disparities in resources, course access and discipline for students of different racial and socioeconomic groups.

Trump has suggested a different interpretation of the office's civil rights role. In his campaign platform, he said he would pursue civil rights cases to "stop schools from discriminating on the basis of race." He has described diversity and equity policies in education as "explicit unlawful discrimination" and said colleges that use them will pay fines and have their endowments taxed.

Trump also has pledged to exclude transgender students from Title IX protections, which affect school policies on students' use of pronouns, bathrooms and locker rooms. Originally passed in 1972, Title IX was first used as a women's rights law. This year, Biden's administration said the law forbids discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation, but Trump can undo that.

While the Education Department does not directly accredit colleges and universities, it oversees the system by reviewing all federally recognized accrediting agencies. Institutions of higher education must be accredited to gain access to federal money for student financial aid.

Accreditation came under scrutiny from conservatives in 2022, when the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools questioned political interference at Florida public colleges and universities. Trump has said he would fire "radical left accreditors" and take applications for new accreditors that would uphold standards including "defending the American tradition" and removing "Marxist" diversity administrators.

Although the education secretary has the authority to terminate its relationship with individual accrediting agencies, it is an arduous process that has rarely been pursued. Under President Barack Obama, the department took steps to cancel accreditors for a now-defunct for-profit college chain, but the Trump administration blocked the move. The group, the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools, was terminated by the Biden administration in 2022.

Much of the Education Department's money for K-12 schools goes through large federal programs, such as Title I for low-income schools and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Those programs support services for students with disabilities, lower class sizes with additional teaching positions, and pay for social workers and other non-teaching roles in schools.

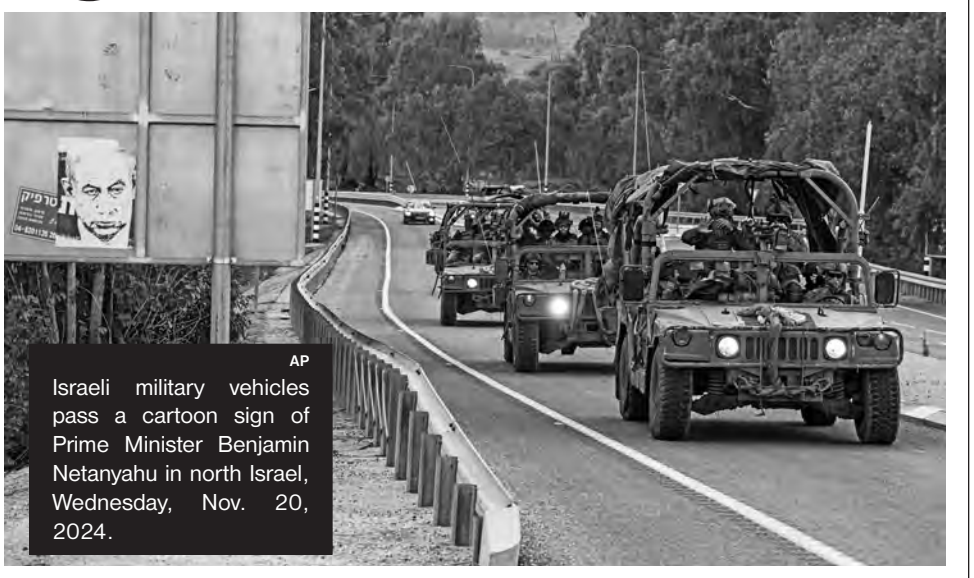
During his campaign, Trump called for shifting those functions to the states. He has not offered details on how the agency's core functions of sending federal money to local districts and schools would be handled.

The Heritage Foundation's Project 2025, a sweeping proposal outlining a far-right vision for the country that overlaps in areas with Trump's campaign, offers a blueprint. It suggests sending oversight of programs for kids with disabilities and low-income children first to the Department of Health and Human Services, before eventually phasing out the funding and converting it to no-strings-attached grants to states.

World

UNDER ANY CEASE-FIRE DEAL FOR LEBANON

Israeli officials demand right to strike Hezbollah


AP
Israeli military vehicles pass a cartoon sign of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in north Israel, Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024.

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli officials demanded Wednesday the freedom to strike Lebanon's Hezbollah as part of any cease-fire deal, raising a potential complication as a top U.S. envoy was in the region attempting to clinch an agreement.

The development came as an airstrike hit the historic Syrian town of Palmyra, killing 36 people, according to Syrian state-run media, which blamed the attack on Israel. The Israeli military declined to comment.

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz and Foreign Minister Gideon Saar each said Israel sought to reserve the right to respond to any violations by Hezbollah under an emerging proposal, which would push the militant group's fighters and Israeli ground forces out of a U.N. buffer zone in southern Lebanon.

There have been signs of progress on the cease-fire deal and on Wednesday, Hezbollah leader Naim Kassem said the Lebanese militant group supports the ongoing negotiations but has "some reservations" and rejects a provision for "freedom of movement" for Israeli troops in Lebanon.

"In any agreement we will reach, we will have to maintain our freedom to act if there will be violations," Israeli Foreign Minister Saar told diplomats in Jerusalem.

Katz said "the condition for any political settlement in Lebanon" was the right for Israel's military "to act and protect the citizens of Israel from Hezbollah."

Amos Hochstein, the Biden administration's point man on Israel and Lebanon, has been working to push the sides toward agreement and meeting this week with officials in Lebanon. He said Wednesday he would travel to Israel to "try to bring this to a close if we can."

Hezbollah began firing into Israel on Oct. 8, 2023, in solidarity with Hamas after its attack on southern Israel that sparked the war in the Gaza Strip. Israel has been responding with strikes in Lebanon, and dramatically escalated its bombardment in late September by launching a ground invasion just inside the border.

US is sending antipersonnel land mines to Ukraine

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. decision to provide Ukraine with antipersonnel land mines expands the use of a weapon that the international community has long condemned because of its danger to innocent civilians. And it reflects another in a long line of American policy shifts on the controversial issue in the past 30 years.

U.S. officials say the mines are needed to help Ukraine stall Russian progress on the battlefield, where Moscow's forces are moving in smaller ground units on the front lines rather than in more heavily protected armored vehicles.

The Defense Department has been providing Ukraine with anti-tank mines throughout the war. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the new policy will give Ukraine "nonpersistent antipersonnel land mines" that are safer because they lose the ability to detonate over time.

The change shows the Biden administration "has clearly and belatedly become less risk averse as it eyes troubling battlefield developments in Ukraine and worries how U.S. policy toward Ukraine and Russia may change on January 20," when President-elect Donald Trump takes office, according to Bradley Bowman, senior director of the Center on Military and Political Power at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

Trump has criticized U.S. support for Ukraine and vowed to quickly end the war.

As Ukraine has gotten more effective in drone warfare, Russian troops moving in armored vehicles are at greater risk of being hit by the drones, so have been moving by foot, making them harder to target, Bowman said.

Here is where the U.S. stands on antipersonnel mines and what it means:

Mines range from larger, destructive ones that can take out a tank to smaller, antipersonnel variants that are hidden just beneath the surface of the ground and explode by a person's weight.

The Biden administration is sending Ukraine antipersonnel mines that have a limited capacity. The so-called nonpersistent mines are electrically fused and powered by batteries. Once the battery runs out, they won't detonate, and they can become inert in anywhere from four hours to two weeks.

Life & Style

Liam Payne's One Direction bandmates among mourners at singer's funeral

LONDON (AP)—The former members of One Direction reunited Wednesday for the funeral of bandmate Liam Payne.

Harry Styles, Zayn Malik, Niall Horan and Louis Tomlinson joined friends and family at the service for 31-year-old Payne, who died after falling from a hotel balcony in Buenos Aires last month.

A horse-drawn carriage carried the coffin to St. Mary's Church in Amersham, 25 miles (40 kilometers) northwest of London. Undertakers carried the dark blue casket with silver handles, topped with white roses, into the 800-year-old church for the private service.

The funeral location was not made public in advance to prevent a large crowd from gathering, though dozens of local people and fans still gathered nearby.

AP

A horse-drawn carriage carrying the coffin of Liam Payne arrives for the funeral service of the One Direction singer at St Mary's Church in Amersham, Buckinghamshire, England, Wednesday Nov. 20, 2024.

"Growing up, I was a massive fan of One Direction, so I almost felt like a little piece of the child in me was gone," said 20-year-old Tara Lloyd, who works at the nearby Amersham Hospital.

The crowd fell silent when Payne's parents, Geoff and Karen, emerged from a car to stand beside the carriage, which was topped with floral tributes reading "Son" and "Daddy." Payne had a 7-year-old son, Bear, with the singer Cheryl Tweedy.

Among the mourners was Payne's girlfriend Kate Cassidy, actor and presenter James Corden, former soccer player Robbie Keane and music mogul Simon Cowell who put One Direction together.

After the service, Cowell embraced Payne's parents outside the church, before the late singer's coffin was driven away in a black hearse.

One Direction formed in 2010 after the five teenagers auditioned for "The X-Factor" as solo acts and were brought together by Cowell, a judge on the show. With their loyal fan base of "Directioners" they became one of the most successful boy bands of all time.

After the group split in 2016, Payne embarked on a solo career which failed to match the success of One Direction. He was also open about struggling with his mental health and alcohol amid the pressures of fame.

Duct-taped banana sells for $6.2M at art auction

NEW YORK (AP)—A piece of conceptual art consisting of a simple banana, duct-taped to a wall, sold for $6.2 million at an auction in New York on Wednesday, with the winning bid coming from a prominent cryptocurrency entrepreneur.

"Comedian," by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan, was a phenomenon when it debuted in 2019 at Art Basel Miami Beach, as festivalgoers tried to make out whether the single yellow piece of fruit affixed to a white wall with silver duct tape was a joke or cheeky commentary on questionable standards among art collectors. At one point, another artist took the banana off the wall and ate it.

The piece attracted so much attention that it had to be withdrawn from view. But three editions sold for between $120,000 and $150,000, according to the gallery handling sales at the time.

Five years later, Justin Sun, founder of cryptocurrency platform TRON, has now paid more than 40 times that higher price point at the Sotheby's auction. Or, more accurately, Sun purchased a certificate of authenticity that gives him the authority to duct-tape a banana to a wall and call it "Comedian."

The piece attracted heavy attention at the busy auction at Sotheby's, with attendees in the crowded room holding up phones to take photos as two handlers wearing white gloves stood at both sides of the banana.

Bidding started at $800,000 and within minutes shot up to $2 million, then $3 million, then $4 million, and higher, as the auctioneer, Oliver Barker, joked "Don't let it slip away."

"Don't miss this opportunity," Barker said. "These are words I've never thought I'd say: Five million dollars for a banana."

The final hammer price announced in the room was $5.2 million, which didn't include the about $1 million in auction house fees, paid by the buyer.

In a statement, Sun said the piece "represents a cultural phenomenon that bridges the worlds of art, memes, and the cryptocurrency community." But he said the latest version of "Comedian" won't last long.

"Additionally, in the coming days, I will personally eat the banana as part of this unique artistic experience, honoring its place in both art history and popular culture," Sun said.

Italy recovers Etruscan artifacts worth $8.5M bound for black market

ROME (AP)—Italian authorities announced Tuesday the seizure of an illegal excavation of an Etruscan burial site in the central Umbria region and are investigating two people for suspected theft of urns, sarcophagi and other artifacts worth 8 million euros ($8.5 million) intended for sale on the black market.

The illegal dig was adjacent to another Etruscan burial site discovered by a farmer tilling his land in 2015, authorities said. They were tipped off by photographs of artifacts and the site that were circulating on the black market that resembled objects found on the farmer's land.

Using a drone for aerial photography and phone taps, they located the second site on land belonging to a local businessman who had access to earth-moving equipment.

At the new site they found two sarcophagi, believed to be of two Etruscan princesses, one still with the skeleton inside, and a burial trousseau complete with urns with battle and hunting scenes, perfume jars and a comb made from bone.

The Etruscan civilization existed from about 900 B.C. to 27 B.C. in central Italy primarily between the Tiber and Arno rivers, covering parts of present-day Tuscany, Umbria and Lazio.

AP

Italian Culture Minister Alessandro Giuli, right, Perugia' Chief Prosecutor Raffaele Cantone, center, and Carabinieri General Francesco Gargano pose for photographers near archaeological finds from the Etruscan era during a press conference in Rome, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024.

Mother unsure how to handle aftermath of son's accident

DEAR ABBY: A month ago, my 7-year-old son was struck by a vehicle while riding his bike in a crosswalk. He's fine now. His injuries were minor, although it was frightening. Police and paramedics responded quickly, and I took my son to the hospital to have him fully checked.

Later that day, a police officer came by our house with a new bike for our son, purchased by the driver of the vehicle. He gave us a paper with the driver's insurance information and said something to the effect of, "Her address is on there too, if you want to thank her for the new bike. That was really nice of them." I was shocked that he would say that.

I guess it was a nice gesture, but she hit my son with a car! The driver admitted to having been distracted. At the scene, she said she thought she had hit a dog. I could go on, but suffice it to say the driver was 100% at fault.

I put the new bike away in the garage. My son saw it there and wanted to ride it. I held out until our insurance claim was accepted, and we went for a ride today. The new bike is not as good as his old one, but he was excited about it because it is a different color. I'm so grateful that he is doing well and isn't afraid of biking again. My question is, do I have to write that thank-you note? If so, can you please give me the words?

BICYCLE MOMMY IN WASHINGTON

DEAR MOMMY: I can think of a few choice words, but no rule of etiquette demands you thank the woman for the bicycle that was destroyed because of her inattentiveness.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have a group of friends I've known for 40 years. As time has passed, we have grown apart politically. This wasn't a problem until recently. Whenever we get together now, they shout at me about my political choices. At first, I tried to defend my position, but I was shouted down. Then I explained that I didn't want to talk politics, that I respect their right to have a different opinion and to please respect mine. That works only temporarily. The next time we meet, it's the same. It's like they think if they all talk at once, they can convince me. They can't, and I have no desire to convince them.

It has reached the point that I'm no longer comfortable in their company, and, evidently, they're not in mine, since they are now meeting without me. I can make new friends, but 40 years is a long time, and I miss them. Is there nothing more I can do short of pretending I agree with them, which I won't do?

ISSUES APART IN NEW YORK

DEAR ISSUES APART: Just as there is nothing more that your old friends can do to convince you, the reverse is also true. You have now reached a stalemate. Politics aside, these friends are shouting at you and disrespecting your wishes. For your own sake, it may be time to step back and cultivate friends who are more tolerant than these folks appear to be.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

CAN WE BURN THESE LEAVES?
NO, THAT POLLUTES.
BUT HOW CAN WE APPEASE THE MIGHTY SNOW DEMONS IF WE DON'T SACRIFICE ANY LEAVES?! WE'LL HAVE A WARM WINTER!
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOUR GRASP OF THEOLOGY OR METEOROLOGY IS THE MORE APPALLING.
I GUESS I'LL GO LIGHT SOME CANDLES AROUND THE TOBOGGAN AND BEG FOR MERCY.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

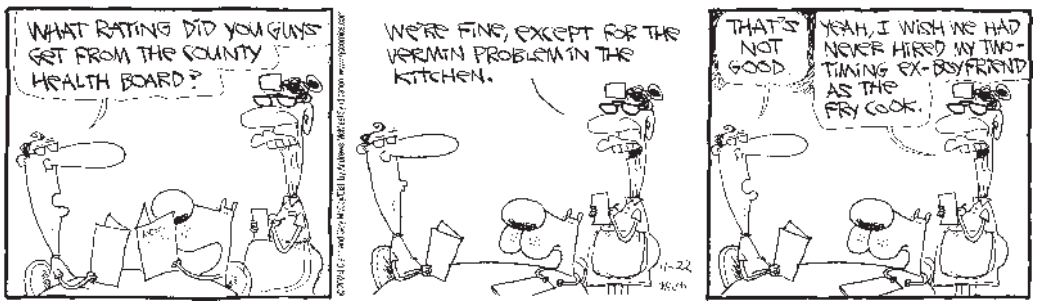
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

THE HOLIDAY TALKS:
IF YOU GET TO HAVE A PRE-THANKSGIVING, WE WANT PARITY.
A BOWL OF CANDY ONE WEEK BEFORE HALLOWEEN!
AND AT LEAST ONE PRESENT A WEEK EARLY.
WE DEMAND TO BE HEARD.
NICK HAD TURKEY, TOO.
SCAB!
11-22

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WHAT RATING DID YOU GUYS GET FROM THE COUNTY HEALTH BOARD?
WE'RE FINE, EXCEPT FOR THE VERMIN PROBLEM IN THE KITCHEN.
THAT'S NOT GOOD.
YEAH, I WISH WE HAD NEVER HIRED MY TWO-TIMING EX-BOYFRIEND AS THE FRY COOK.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Online guffaw
4 Late-night host Meyers
8 Spanish custard
12 Greek vowel
13 Ticklish Muppet
14 Carry on
15 Shrink
17 Pundit's piece
18 Dido's lover
19 Calendar box
21 Soul, to Camus
22 Woodwind player
26 Strictly — nous
29 Pained sounds
30 "Evita" role
31 God, in Granada
32 Press for payment
33 Adolescent
34 Raggedy doll
35 Parking place
36 Winning
37 Kremlin setting
39 Frazier foe
40 Director Howard
41 Borders
45 Eat in style
48 Raze
50 Acknowledge
51 Brewer's kiln
52 Six, in Milan
53 Dorm furniture
54 Crazy
55 DDE predecessor

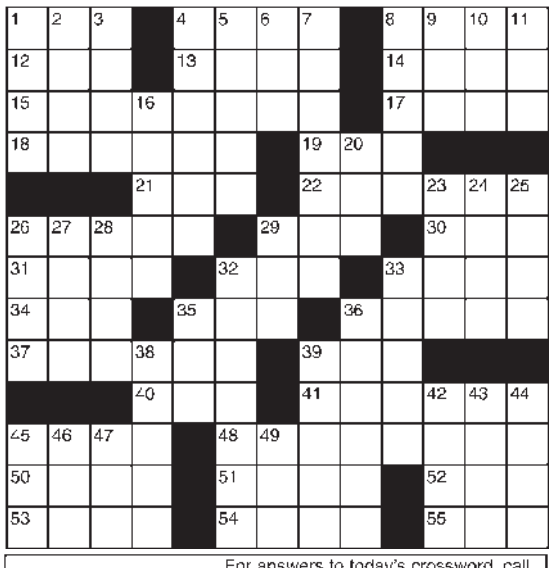
DOWN

1 Spartan queen
2 Oklahoma tribe
3 Grassy area
4 Bagel choice
5 "Beloved" actress Kimberly
6 Celeb gossip source
7 Square-dance party
8 Ice cream alternative, for short
9 Pool unit
10 "Hail, Caesar!"
11 Homer's neighbor
16 Draws close
20 Tummy muscles
23 Slurpee alternative
24 The Mets' old home
25 See to
26 Dutch export
27 Baja boy
28 Oodles
29 "Shoo!"
32 "— Abbey"
33 Base before home
35 Bathroom, to a Brit
36 Warnings
38 Rowing teams
39 Sailor's cry
42 "Gee whiz!"
43 Barnyard females
44 Tizzy
45 Bit of moisturizer
46 "— had it!"
47 Silent assent
49 — de cologne

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	M	A	S		S	H	E	A		C	A	B
R	O	N	K		W	A	V	E		O	L	E
C	A	K	E	S	A	L	E	S		L	E	A
S	I	A	I	I	N			O	L	D	E	H
			C	D		C	O	P	E	S		
A	R	C	H		H	U	R		G	O	T	H
I	O	U			E	R	E		U	R	I	
D	E	E	R		R	V	S		S	P	A	T
		S	O	R	R	Y		B	E			
B	E	T	T	E			S	T	P	O	K	E
F	M			C	A	I	I	S	I	G	N	S
L	U	C		A	S	E	A		A	L	I	S
A	S	K		P	L	O	W		L	E	I	O

Yesterday's answer 11-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Scarlett Johansson, 40; Mark Ruffalo, 57; Jamie Lee Curtis, 66; Steve Van Zandt, 74.

Happy Birthday: Use your resources wisely. Refuse to let anyone represent you. Paint your vision in bold colors. Lay down a foundation that ensures your plans can withstand pressure and allow you to live up to your promises. Set boundaries, guidelines and safety nets that ease stress and strengthen your position with those who have the power to make or break your requests. Choose the path that delivers. Your numbers are 4, 11, 25, 34, 38, 41, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* A physical outlet will help you release pent-up energy, frustration and stress. Hiking, challenging your body and mind, and pushing yourself to the edge will feel good, but be careful not to let your competitive nature become insult or injury. Know your limits and pace yourself. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't stew over things you can't control. Change begins with you; protecting yourself and your rights with finesse will help you get through any situation. A hotheaded attitude will cause friction and not solve problems. Dedicate your time to making improvements. Choose peace and love over hate. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Listen carefully, as the information you receive will be confusing and deliberately intended to lead you astray. Put your time and effort into learning, getting the facts and engaging experts to ensure you make wise choices. Meeting up with friends or relatives will help ground you. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Turn on your charm, and you'll attract attention. Mix business with pleasure, and doors will open. A kind gesture will buy you a seat at a prominent table. Don't hold back when you have so much to offer. Stick to the rule book; exaggeration works against you. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take time out and have fun. Get together with people who enjoy the same things you do and live in the moment. Entertainment, competitive games or participating in a cause or event that concerns you will result in meeting someone who captures your interest. Keep an open mind. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Sit tight, monitor what's happening around you and make choices that keep you out of harm's way. A healthy lifestyle change will profoundly impact you and how you move forward. Social events will bring you closer to someone you love. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Live, learn and let be. Focus on what's important and allow others to do as they please. You'll gain the most by being yourself and doing what makes you happy. Take the path of least resistance and enjoy what you encounter. Turn your dreams and desires into a reality. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Keep abreast of what everyone else is doing and saying. The information you gather will help you decipher who you feel you connect with best. Refuse to let outside influences challenge or back you into a corner. Do what makes you feel good about yourself and your life. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Honesty is the best policy. When in doubt, keep your thoughts to yourself. Protect your reputation, home and relationships from scammers and shysters. Use your energy and experience to ferret out what's false and what's fact. Accommodate the ones you love by offering incentives. Financial gain is within reach. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Make a motion to change what is holding you back. Research, gain insight into something that interests you and arrange to participate. Your attitude, understanding and popularity will grow as you utilize your skills and experience to improve whatever situation or event you find yourself involved in. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Look around you and use your imagination to devise your next move. Discussing a person, place or belief with someone you respect will change your perspective. Use your voice to make a difference, not to manipulate. Simplicity, integrity and facts will have the best impact. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take the time to prepare appropriately. It will be easy to lose track of your purpose and maintain a good reputation. Personal growth, self-improvement and taking better care of yourself will bring far better results than going head-to-head with someone who opposes your ideologies. Make personal gain your goal. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are theatrical, exuberant and fun-loving. You are spontaneous and friendly.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5						9	1
								2
	2		9	3				
			7		6	4		8
	8	7	5					9
3	1		8		4		2	
						9	1	6
		9	1	8	5			
		3		6	9			

Difficulty: ★★★★ 11/22

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	1	4	9	3	2	5	6	8
2	8	5	6	7	4	1	9	3
9	6	3	5	8	1	7	2	4
6	4	8	7	2	5	9	3	1
1	2	7	3	9	6	4	8	5
5	3	9	4	1	8	6	7	2
8	5	1	2	6	7	3	4	9
4	9	6	8	5	3	2	1	7
3	7	2	1	4	9	8	5	6

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/21

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PILBARA, AUSTRALIA Solution: 11 letters

M	G	S	U	B	T	E	R	R	A	N	E	A	N	W
E	O	N	P	A	R	A	B	U	R	D	O	O	A	E
S	N	N	O	U	A	A	N	K	E	T	E	L	L	S
E	A	I	T	O	B	H	C	C	O	V	E	W	P	T
P	L	L	G	E	R	A	T	O	Y	G	R	E	N	E
A	U	K	C	A	B	E	L	A	H	W	T	A	E	R
C	S	O	C	T	L	E	A	S	R	R	I	N	N	N
S	N	S	U	A	N	L	L	T	O	R	R	O	R	O
D	I	O	E	I	N	I	U	L	O	Ⓚ	A	E	U	T
N	N	L	M	C	N	Y	E	N	O	Ⓒ	C	K	O	R
A	E	A	G	E	I	U	O	E	M	Ⓞ	O	R	B	U
L	P	R	W	I	M	R	N	N	R	Ⓡ	A	F	E	B
D	A	M	P	I	E	R	P	D	S	I	A	E	O	H
L	A	K	A	R	L	A	M	I	L	Y	I	R	R	S
N	B	E	A	C	H	Y	D	R	O	G	E	N	S	A

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Anketell, Ashburton, Beach, Broome, Canyons, Coast, Cove, Culture, Dampier, Energy, Fern, Gnoorea, Hydrogen, Iron Ore, Karlamilyi, Karratha, Landscapes, Mine, Montebello, Newman, Nullagine, Outback, Paraburdoo, Peninsula, Petroleum, Price, Rail, Record, Rock, Roebourne, Solar, Subterranean, Weano, Western, Whaleback

Yesterday's Answer: Exploring

For WONDERWORD apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

Jackson, Bane lead Grizzlies to 117-111 victory over 76ers

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Jaren Jackson Jr. had 25 points, Desmond Bane added 21 points and 10 rebounds and the Memphis Grizzlies set a season-high with 19 3-pointers in a 117-111 win over the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday night.

Jaylen Wells added 14 points for Memphis as Grizzlies head coach Taylor Jenkins became the winningest coach in franchise history.

Joel Embiid led the Sixers with 35 points and 11 rebounds, but Philadelphia lost its fifth straight. Rookie Jared McCain finished with 20 points, while Guerschon Yabusele added 17 points.

Memphis, which led 115-100 with 3:15 left, had to withstand a late Philadelphia rally to capture the victory.

AP

Memphis Grizzlies forward Jaren Jackson Jr. (13) shoots against Philadelphia 76ers center Joel Embiid (21) in the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024, in Memphis, Tenn.

THUNDER 109, TRAIL BLAZERS 99

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Jalen Williams scored 30 points, Isaiah Hartenstein had a double-double in his season debut, and Oklahoma City beat Portland.

Hartenstein, a free agent pickup who played for the New York Knicks last season, had been out with a broken bone in his left hand. He had 13 points, 14 rebounds and four blocks in 29 minutes and provided rim protection and bulk for a team that has struggled with injuries in the frontcourt.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 28 points for the Thunder. He made just 7 of 19 field goals, but he made all 14 of his free throws to help Oklahoma City snap a two-game losing streak.

Alex Caruso scored 17 points to help Oklahoma City's bench outscore Portland's 44-31.

Shaedon Sharpe led Portland with 21 points and Toumani Camara and Jerami Grant each added 14 for the Trail Blazers.

CAVALIERS 128, PELICANS 100

CLEVELAND (AP)—Ty Jerome scored 27 points in the first half and finished with a career-high 29 as the Cleveland Cavaliers never trailed in a 128-100 win over the New Orleans Pelicans on Wednesday night.

Jerome, starting in place of injured point guard Darius Garland, had 20 points in the second quarter and buried seven 3-pointers before halftime. Cleveland is off to the best start in franchise history at 16-1.

Georges Niang added 20 points and first-round pick Jaylon Tyson had 16 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists in his first pro start for the Cavaliers. Jarrett Allen had 16 points and 11 rebounds.

Rookie forward Antonio Reeves, who averaged 2.9 points per game, scored 34 points, and Brandon Boston Jr. had 14 points for the injury-riddled Pelicans.

BUCKS 122, BULLS 106

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo had 41 points, nine rebounds and eight assists as Milwaukee beat Chicago.

Brook Lopez scored 21 points, Damian Lillard had 20 points and 10 assists, and AJ Green added 18 points to help the Bucks win for the fourth time in five games following a 2-8 start.

Zach Lavine scored 27 points to lead Chicago. Torrey Craig added 15, while Nikola Vucevic and Coby White had 14 each.

The Bucks led by 18 and seemed to be in control after a 16-0 run from the end of the first quarter and into the second, but the Bulls chipped away and pulled within one point in the third. The score remained close until midway through the fourth when the Bucks once again pulled away with Antetokounmpo dominating inside.

The Bucks held a 54-34 advantage in the paint.

ROCKETS 130, PACERS 113

HOUSTON (AP)—Alperen Sengun had a season-high 31 points with 12 rebounds to lead Houston to a win over Indiana.

The Rockets used a big run in the third quarter to push the lead to 21 entering the fourth and cruised to their sixth victory in seven games.

Jabari Smith Jr. added 23 points for the Rockets for his second 20-point game in the last four, and Fred VanVleet had 18 points and six assists.

Quenton Jackson had a career-high 24 points on 10-of-12 shooting for the Pacers, who lost for the fourth time in five games. Pascal Siakam had 19 points at halftime but only scored two more points the rest of the way.

KNICKS 138, SUNS 122

PHOENIX (AP)—Jalen Brunson scored 36 points, Karl-Anthony Towns added 34 and New York beat Phoenix for their fourth straight win.

All five Knicks starters scored in double figures. Josh Hart had 19 points, 11 rebounds and six assists.

Devin Booker scored 33 points on 12-for-23 shooting and Jusuf Nurkic had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the injury-depleted Suns, who have lost five straight.

New York never trailed, hitting its first eight shots, including four 3-pointers. The Knicks carried that momentum to a 44-28 advantage after one quarter and a 76-58 lead at halftime. Brunson had 23 points before the break on 8-for-9 shooting, including hitting all four 3s.

The Suns cut the deficit to 88-77 midway through the third quarter, but the Knicks responded with an 11-2 run.

WARRIORS 120, HAWKS 97

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Andrew Wiggins scored 27 points, Stephen Curry added 23 points and eight assists and Golden State beat Atlanta.

Trayce Jackson-Davis finished with 14 points and 11 rebounds, and Buddy Hield contributed 11 points off the bench.

Jalen Johnson led the Hawks with 15 points and 14 rebounds, and Trae Young also had a double-double with 12 points and 11 assists.

Draymond Green, who had made multiple 3-pointers in each of the past five games, went 0 for 4 from deep and had nine points, nine assists and seven rebounds for the Warriors. Green and Wiggins each had two blocked shots.

CLIPPERS 104, MAGIC 93

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—James Harden scored 24 points and Los Angeles won their sixth game in a row at their new arena, beating Orlando.

Harden shot just 5 of 14 from the field, but he made 11 of 12 free throws to go with seven rebounds and five assists. Amir Coffey scored 18 points and Ivica Zubac added 17 on 8-of-11 shooting and 12 rebounds.

The Magic had their six-game winning streak snapped after holding every opponent under 100 points during that span.

Anthony Black had 17 points and eight assists off the bench to lead five Magic players in double figures. Jalen Suggs added 16 points.

LeBron James says he's taking a social media break for now

LOS ANGELES (AP)—LeBron James says he's taking a break from social media.

The NBA's all-time leading scorer and Los Angeles Lakers star posted on X, the platform formerly called Twitter, and Instagram on Wednesday to announce that he's stepping away from his pages. James has 159 million followers on Instagram, 52.9 million on X.

James started the farewell by reposting something that Rich Kleiman, Kevin Durant's longtime manager, posted to X on Oct. 24.

"We can all acknowledge that sports is the last part of society that universally brings people together. So why can't the coverage do the same?" Kleiman wrote that day. "It's only click bait when you say it. When the platform is so big, you can make the change and allow us all an escape from real life negativity. I for one find it all a waste of breath."

James, on Instagram, posted a screengrab of Kleiman's post and added the caption, "Damn shame what it's come to." On X, his repost of Kleiman simply said, "AMEN!!"

Kleiman has posted only a handful of times since his Oct. 24 post, and evidently, James isn't planning to post much—or anything—until further notice.

His announcement came one day after he said "everybody on the Internet called me a liar all the time" when he said he was watching Dalton Knecht's college games last year at Tennessee—long before the Lakers drafted the sharpshooting guard.

"And with that said I'll holla at y'all! Getting off social media for the time being. Y'all take care," James posted, followed by emojis of a hand holding up two fingers—often symbolizing someone leaving a place—and a crown, a nod to his "King James" moniker.

James, the NBA's oldest active player—he turns 40 next month—is a four-time NBA champion and a three-time Olympic gold medalist, the most recent of those coming earlier this year at the Paris Games.

The Lakers are 10-4, winners of six straight and next play Thursday at home against Orlando.

Westbook posts 200th career triple-double in win over Grizzlies

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Denver Nuggets guard Russell Westbrook posted the 200th triple-double of his career on Tuesday night in a win over Memphis.

The NBA recordholder for triple-doubles reached the milestone late in a 122-110 victory.

The 36-year-old Westbrook finished with 12 points, 10 rebounds and 14 assists, and it took him until the final minutes to accomplish the feat.

With 1:28 left, Westbrook was one rebound shy of the triple-double when center Dario Saric missed a 3-pointer. Westbrook grabbed his only offensive rebound of the game.

With the Grizzlies still threatening, Saric knocked down a 3-pointer with 27.7 seconds left to preserve the Denver win.

Westbrook said he wasn't thanking Saric for the miss that led to the triple-double.

"I thank him for making the next one to close the game, which is the most important," he said.

Westbrook is 19 triple-doubles ahead of Hall of Famer Oscar Robertson, and 62 in front of Magic Johnson. His teammate—Nikola Jokic—is fourth with 136, followed by LeBron James at 117.

"It's a blessing," Westbrook said of reaching the milestone. "I'm truly grateful to be able to play the game (well enough) to do that. But I'm also appreciative of the ones who came before me."

Westbrook's teammates marveled at the accomplishment, not only the number of triple-doubles, but his longevity and the ability to reach such an accomplishment.

Julian Strawther, the second-year guard out of Gonzaga, said Westbrook is a celebrity everywhere they go.

"It's hard to put into words," Strawther said. "Two hundred triple-doubles is a lot. I don't even know if I've got 200 career games."

For Westbrook, the feat capped an ideal night.

"Anytime we win and I get them, I'm always grateful for that," Westbrook said. "It's my favorite time."

Nadal retires at Davis Cup after he loses and Spain is eliminated

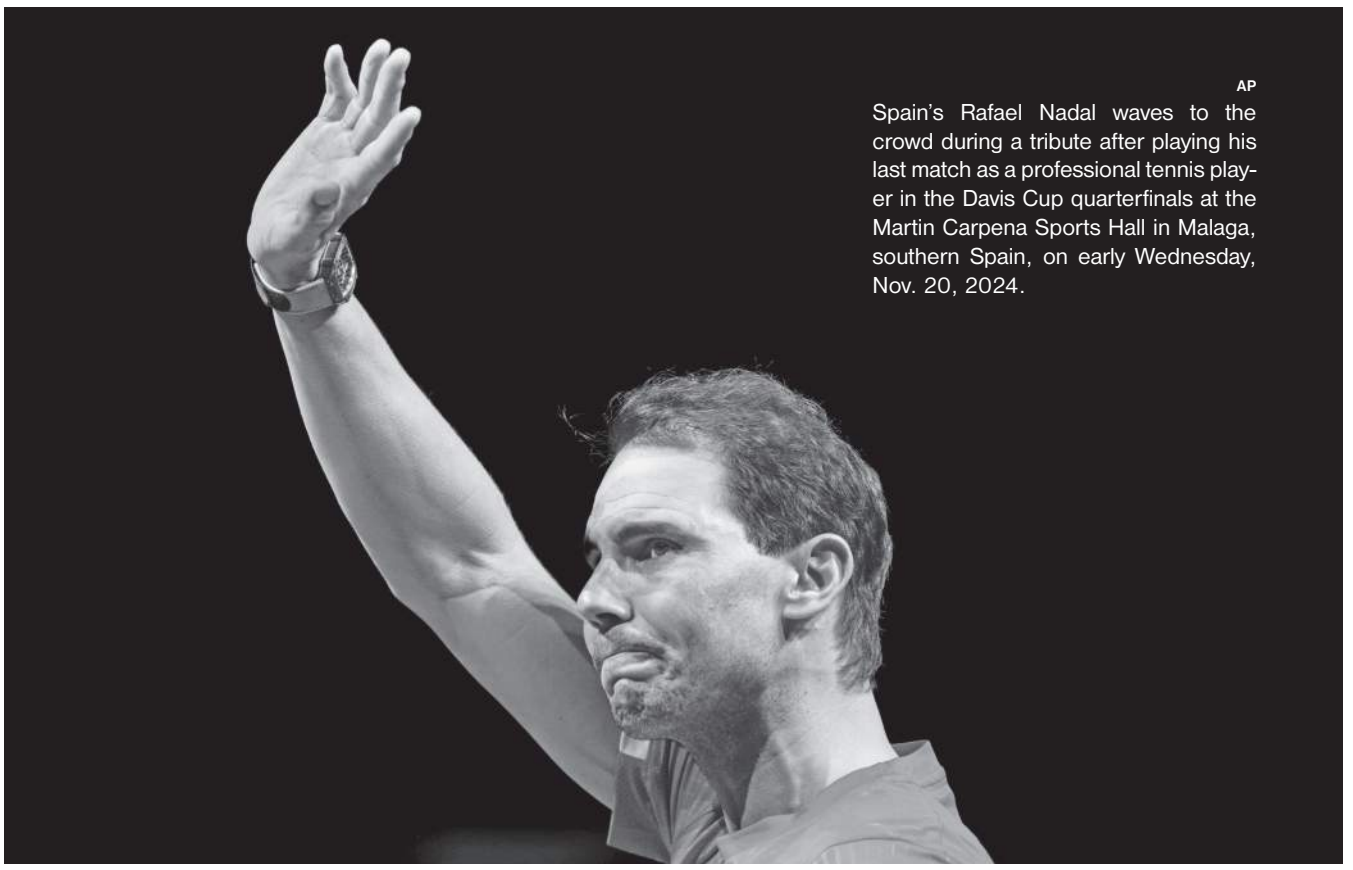
MALAGA, Spain (AP)—Rafael Nadal bit his lower lip and his reddened eyes welled with tears as he stood alongside his Davis Cup teammates for Spain's national anthem Tuesday before what he—and everyone—knew might be the last match of his career.

Hours after Nadal's 6-4, 6-4 loss to Botic van de Zandschulp of the Netherlands was over, the evening did turn out to represent the 22-time Grand Slam champion's farewell to professional tennis, because the Dutch eliminated the Spaniards in the quarterfinals just after midnight.

And it was during an on-court, post-match ceremony to honor Nadal that he cried and cried, at the singsong chorus of "Raaa-faaa" from the spectators, at the video showing highlights from his more than two decades on tour and the collection of recorded tributes from current or former players such as his Big Three rivals Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic, Serena Williams, Conchita Martinez and Andy Murray, and stars from other sports such as golf's Sergio Garcia or soccer's David Beckham.

"The titles, the numbers, are there, so people probably know that, but the way I would like to be remembered is as a good person from a small village in Mallorca," the 38-year-old Nadal told the flag-waving, sign-toting crowd at the sold-out Palacio de Deportes Jose Maria Martin Carpena. "Just a kid that followed their dreams, worked as hard as possible. ... I have been very lucky."

He had said beforehand that his feelings would need to be put on hold, that this week was about attempting to claim one last trophy for his country, not about pondering his impending retirement, which he announced last month would come after this event.



AP

Spain's Rafael Nadal waves to the crowd during a tribute after playing his last match as a professional tennis player in the Davis Cup quarterfinals at the Martin Carpena Sports Hall in Malaga, southern Spain, on early Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024.

But he acknowledged after playing that "the emotions were difficult to manage," and that he felt nerves out there amid the roars of an adoring audience that mostly showed up for one player and one player only.

After Nadal, a 14-time French Open champion, was beaten on the indoor hard court in southern Spain, he became a cheerleader for his heir apparent, Carlos Alcaraz, who evened the matchup against the Netherlands at 1-all by getting past Tallon Griekspoor 7-6 (0), 6-3 in the other singles match. But then van de Zandschulp and Wesley Koolhof clinched the victory for the Dutch by defeating Alcaraz and Marcel Granollers 7-6 (4), 7-6 (3) in the deciding doubles match.

Even if Spain had managed to get past the Netherlands, Nadal said that if he were his team's captain, he wouldn't pick himself to play again in the semifinals after that performance against the 80th-ranked van de Zandschulp.

At least he was in a joking mood after the result put a stop to his 29-match winning streak in Davis Cup singles. The only other blemish on his record, which stood at 29-1 entering Tuesday, came in his 2004 debut.

"I lost my first match in the Davis Cup, and I lost my last one," Nadal said with a wide grin. "So we close the circle."

When a forehand found the net to close his last match, Nadal walked to the net for a quick hug with his opponent.

"That was a tough, tough match to play," said van de Zandschulp, noting that he idolized Nadal while growing up.

In certain ways, this was, unmistakably, the Nadal that van de Zandschulp—and so many others—can remember. The white headband, marked with the red bull logo Nadal made famous. The white tape wrapped around all four of his left, racket-holding fingers. The water bottles by his sideline bench, placed just so.

There was the occasional ace right on a line. The occasional serve-and-volley foray. The occasional over-the-shoulder putaway. And, yes, the occasional uppercut and scream of "Vamos!" There also were—neither to Nadal's or most of the 9,200 spectators' liking—several points where he looked like a once-dominant figure diminished by age and injuries.

Nadal was just not able to bring his best, no matter how many chants of "Ra-fa!" or "España!" or "Si, se puede!" ("Yes, you can!") broke out, no matter how many scarves reading "Gracias, Rafa!" or red-and-yellow Spanish flags of all sizes filled the arena.

This version of Nadal had hip issues, including surgery in June 2023, and abdominal problems that combined to limit him to only 24 matches over the past two years. He went 12-8 in singles in 2024.

The match against van de Zandschulp—who upset Alcaraz at the U.S. Open—was Nadal's first outing that counted since early August at the Paris Olympics. He lost there in the second round of singles to Djokovic and bowed out in the doubles quarterfinals alongside Alcaraz.

Nadal and Alcaraz practiced with each other hours before the start of play. The day, much like the entire Davis Cup lead-up, was largely about memories of, and praise for, Nadal.

"You know very well what you have meant to the tennis world," said Spain's captain, David Ferrer, who lost to Nadal in the 2013 French Open final. "We will miss you a lot."

Nadal's appeal was found in how he played tennis, relentless and striking each shot as if it might be his last, and the humility he displayed away from competition. No one cared for him as much as his fellow Spaniards. He is a national hero, transcending sports, and that was clear from the love expressed over and over via shouts and standing ovations—when Nadal entered the court, when he won a point, when his match ended, and so on.

"When we heard the news that Rafa was retiring, this really became something special—a chance to see the greatest sportsman in the country's history," said Luis Julve, a 19-year-old college student who made the trip from Madrid with his mother and aunt.

When the matches, the ceremony, the night and his career were over, Nadal hugged his teammates and left the court, pausing to wave goodbye to his fans one last time.

"The truth is that nobody ever wants to arrive at this moment," Nadal said. "I'm not tired of playing tennis, but it's my body that doesn't want to play anymore, so I have to accept the situation. Honestly, I feel super privileged for having been able to make a career out of my hobby, and for having played for much longer than I could ever have imagined."

Nadal's legacy is a relentlessness that inspired Alcaraz and plenty of others

MALAGA, Spain (AP)—Not surprisingly, Rafael Nadal couldn't take a step around the grounds of the Davis Cup Final 8 in recent days without hearing requests for a handshake or a selfie. And that was just from the other professional tennis players, to speak nothing of the fans.

The significance of Nadal's retirement is lost on no one inside or outside the sport he is walking away from at age 38 after a litany of injuries, and for all of the well-documented success he enjoyed, his greatest legacy might be the way he inspired other players. The 22-time Grand Slam champion and all-time great of the game lost the last match of his career as Spain was eliminated by the Netherlands in the quarterfinals as Tuesday turned to Wednesday.

The last man to face—and beat—Nadal, 80th-ranked Botic van de Zandschulp, who is 29, spoke after his 6-4, 6-4 victory about idolizing the Spaniard. Many current players grew up watching Nadal, admiring him for his skill—from the big, topspin left-handed forehands to the pinpoint volleys and everything in between—and his relentless nature, his commitment to seeking improvement and, maybe most of all, his off-court humility.

He set an example for others, from contemporaries Roger Federer or Novak Djokovic or Serena Williams, to members of the following generations, including heir apparent Carlos Alcaraz.

"I was a big Rafa fan. Used to wear all his kits, his shoes, everything. A lot of neon colors," said Ben Shelton, a 22-year-old member of the U.S. team that faces Australia on Thursday, when the other quarterfinal is defending champion Italy and No. 1-ranked Jannik Sinner against Argentina. "And being a lefty, he's a guy that I have always kind of watched and tried to learn things from. One of those perfect examples of how to do things on and off the court, how to handle the press, how to win with class, how to lose with class."

That sentiment was echoed by player after player, many of whom were thrilled to be on-site for his farewell.

"For him to have this as his finishing point, it's an honor for the event," said Yannick Hanfmann, part of the German squad that defeated Canada 2-0 on Wednesday and will meet the Netherlands in the semifinals on Friday. "He's present everywhere. In the training area, when he's walking around, you see the people looking and trying to get some pictures, here and there. He's got this aura that already was big, but now that this is the end, it's maybe more important."

Hanfmann and others were struck by Nadal's dedication to chasing every shot down. By a refusal to accept defeat, no matter the deficit. By his longevity and consistency—nearly 18 full years in a row ranked in the top 10; 10 consecutive years with at least one major title—and his dizzying peaks, including the 14 French Open championships that earned him the "King of Clay" nickname.

His unfailing politeness, seen in such gestures as when he would say goodbye to every volunteer on his way out of a tournament or, just this Monday, when he arrived at Spain's team news conference and made a beeline for the stenographer to shake the hand of the person who would be typing up the transcript of the Q-and-A session for reporters.

"The titles, the numbers, are there, so people probably know that, but the way I would like to be remembered is as a good person from a small village in Mallorca," Nadal said during a tear-filled post-match ceremony at the sold-out Palacio de Deportes Jose Maria Martin Carpena, where thousands serenaded him with a chorus of "Raaaa-faaa! Raaaa-faaa!"

"Just a kid that followed their dreams," he said, "(and) worked as hard as possible."

No opponent, or any observer for that matter, could ever question his effort, even as injury after injury made things tougher, especially over the past two seasons.

No one ever doubted his drive to get better.

"I really will miss watching him on court," said Iga Swiatek, a five-time Grand Slam champion and long an unabashed fan of Nadal's. "Honestly, he was the only player I watched, so I don't know if I'm going to watch tennis at all now. He's a huge inspiration."

That last word, or a variation of it, was used over and over again as tributes to Nadal were offered.

So were "intensity" and "passion," "grit" and "role model."

"For me," said Alcaraz, a 21-year-old Spaniard with four major trophies, "it's difficult to accept that Rafael Nadal is going to retire, honestly."

Man Amigas band together to down Lady Blue Jays, 15-5

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Man Amigas used the power of friendship—and their bats—to band together and bring down the Lady Blue Jays, 15-5, in the Inaugural NMI Softball Association Women's League 2024 last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field in Susupe.

The Lady Blue Jays started off as hot as the day was and scored five runs off the bats of Herminia Agulto, Kiana Camacho, Luisa Cabrera, Carey Demapan, and Mariko Laniyo in the first inning, but they were no match to the Man Amigas' chemistry.

Right after, at the bottom of the inning, the Man Amigas' started off their scoring spree from the top to the bottom of their lineup.

Jaylina Borja got on base from a single, followed by a walk to Jashmine Ramon. Kianu Aldan then brought them home with an inside the parker to cut the Lady Blue Jays' lead, 2-5. Bell Igitol, Bexx Repeki, Rosie Saralu then took the lead, 6-5.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Man Amigas team poses for a photo during the opening ceremony of the NMI Softball Women's League 2024 at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field in Susupe.

The bottom of the lineup's Christy Aldan, Alannah Sablan, and Keo Rios then padded their lead with three more runs, 9-5. The Lady Blue Jays then couldn't touch Man Amigas' pitcher Evita Maratita in the second inning.

On the other hand, the Man Amigas scored four more runs in the second to enjoy a comfortable 13-5 lead. The Lady Blue Jays still could not get the better of Maratita and went down after just one hit in the third. They then went down in order in the fourth, while the Man Amigas scored two more for a 15-5 final.

In other results that day, 670 Babes rallied past Dirty Diamonds, 15-11, and Batties slipped past Wettz, 2-1.

LEIGH GASES

Marpac's Greg Sablan leaps for a left-handed layup as he's contested by CPA's Frank Robert during their game in the 2nd Annual R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Gov't/Business League 2024 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

LEIGH GASES

Marpac's Coby Santos passes the ball to a teammate off view during their game in the 2nd Annual R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Gov't/Business League 2024 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

MARPAC

From page 20

made it a 37-40 game. Marpac only went up from there and drowned out CPA's noise from beyond the arc and from fastbreak plays.

Dela Cruz found himself in a groove with two more 3-pointers, while Santos provided cover from within. CPA found themselves playing catchup after a knotted game, 47-47, 49-49, then 51-51, and 54-54.

CPA's Donovan Brennan did all he could from downtown and in the paint, but at this point, Marpac began to pull away. CPA had missed opportunities as Marpac upped their defensive pressure and soon, they were up, 63-57. The biggest lead Marpac had was 13 points in the fourth quarter when Dela Cruz, Santos, and Jeffrey Castro had a free for all.

But CPA didn't back down and made last minute runs at the basket to lessen the lead, 80-85 with just 40 seconds left. They couldn't quite reverse the damage with less than 30 seconds left though, as Marpac added two more points and clinched the W.

Dela Cruz delivered 28 points, while Santos was right behind at 27, and Castro scored 11. Meanwhile, Brennan put up a game high 34 markers, David Camacho had 17, and Greg Deleon Guerrero scored 15.

In the other game that day, Priority Care demolished E-Land, 76-49.

Last Tuesday, Federallys broke Coca-Cola, 80-61, and CPA came back with a vengeance to hand IT&E their first loss, 99-70.

Marpac 87 – Dela Cruz 28, Santos 27, Castro 11, Mettao 10, Lee 4, Diaz 4, Sablan 3.

CPA 80 – Brennan 34, Camacho 17, Deleon Guerrero 15, Robert 12, Diaz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-22, 37-40, 67-58, 87-80.

Miso Kim looks forward to Hell of the Marianas 2024

Miso Kim of South Korea, the top finisher in the women's division of last year's Hell of the Marianas, is returning to Saipan next month for the grueling century cycle with her eye on another first place finish.

"I really want to win again this year," said Kim. "Earlier this month, I won the women's category at a four-day event in Korea, which I believe was excellent training for Hell of The Marianas coming up in about a month. I'll keep preparing hard in the remaining time."

One of the toughest cycling events in the Pacific region is set to return to The Marianas on Dec. 7, 2024, with the early bird registration deadline fast approaching on Saturday, Nov. 23. Last year the race attracted nearly 200 bikers from six countries and territories, taking on the challenging course under cooler but cloudy skies.

"Last year, it rained during the race, and I had a slip in the downhill and corner sections," said Kim. "This year, I'll focus on safety, especially on the downhills, and hope for clear weather this time."

The Hell of the Marianas features a 100-kilometer course that winds its way through Saipan's hills, valleys, and scenic byways. Participants must navigate 4,900 feet of ascents, including steep climbs and fast descents, making it a true test of endurance and skill. The event is open to both amateur and professional riders.

» Early bird registration deadline on Nov. 23

In addition to the course, Kim says one of her most memorable moments came after the finish line.

"The after-party following the race really stood out to me," she said. "In Korea, races typically end with a simple awards ceremony at the venue and then wrap up. However, at Hell of The Marianas, we gathered in the evening after the race to look back at photos taken during the event and celebrate on the podium in various categories, which allowed many people to be recognized and congratulate each other. Last year, many Korean riders made it to the podium, which made me proud."

Registration is open at www.helloftheMarianas.com. Prizes will be awarded to winners in various categories. Participants will also receive a race T-shirt and entry to the awards banquet.

"Hell of The Marianas is an important event for tourism and our local cycling community," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "We invite the community to take a moment along the course to cheer for our bikers, and we thank our many sponsors and supporting agencies for their support, including Department of Public Safety, Department of Public Works, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and Parks and Recreation."

For more information, contact NMI Cycling Federation President Vince Seman at nmicycling@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

MVA

Cyclists take on the challenge of Hell of The Marianas 2023 on Dec. 2, 2023. Registration is now open at www.helloftheMarianas.com and the early bird deadline is Nov. 23, 2024, for the race—featuring 100K and 50K courses —which returns on Dec. 7, 2024, and is organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation.

NMI

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Kaisaan Izzath Rasheed and Aiham Shiyam, 6-1, 7-5.

Race didn't downplay the significance of Wednesday's win against Maldives in the history of CNMI tennis.

"It was a historic day in NMI tennis history as for the first time we were able to compete in Davis Cup with our own national team. What's even better is, we won," he said.

Sinclair said he's glad they were able to hand Race his first ever win in Davis Cup. The CNMI Sports Hall of Famer also used to skipper the Pacific Oceania Davis Cup team.

"I'm very happy to get coach Jeff his first win as Davis Cup coach of the NMI. He's done amazing things for tennis on island and I'm super honored to get to play for him."

On his bothersome back injury, the former Pacific Oceania Davis Cup No. 1 said it feels better.

"My back is a work in progress. But it has felt better each day I've been here so I hope it continues this trend."

Schorr, meanwhile, applauded the team's effort in Day 1 of the Davis Cup competition.

"I will just say that it was a great performance by everyone on the team. Everyone did their part, played well, and we got our first win for the NMI in the Davis Cup. The next two ties in our group will be tougher but our team is going in with a lot of confidence and I really like our chances to do well and get results we want."

Ramsey, for his part, said it's always nice to win your first match in any tournament and it helped that Schorr and Sinclair already clinched the tie when it was their time to play doubles.

"It's so much fun watching Robbie and Colin Sinclair go to work on the tennis courts. Tomas and I play good doubles together and we finished the job that the other two started. They took all the pressure off by winning the first two singles matches so we were able to relax into our doubles and let loose!"

Abel essentially agreed with Ramsey's comment.

"It was a great day for CNMI tennis, Colin and Robbie did an amazing job in singles and freed Collin 2 and I for a great doubles match. Felt good playing and just happy we won."

Karen Buettner is also with the team in Bahrain as team manager.

WALK

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duce as well.

The Dodgers' leadoff batter James Benavente then scored their seventh run at the bottom of the sixth to regain a four-run lead, 7-3.

When it seemed like the Pirates would walk the plank, they refused to wave the Jolly Roger in defeat as at the top of the seventh, they found their rhythm once more and tried to do some damage control by tacking on four runs to tie it all up, 7-7.

However, Tenorio's inability to locate the strike zone and the team's defense were the harbingers of defeat, as they gave up the winning run in walk-off fashion.

Games are played every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 6:30pm. The postseason is slated for Feb. 10, 11, 17, and 18, with the best-of-three championship series on Feb. 24, 26, and 28 if needed.

Jackson, Bane lead Grizzlies to 117-111 victory over 76ers.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Man Amigas band together to down Lady Blue Jays, 15-5.

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NMI blanks Maldives in Davis Cup debut

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tomas Abel takes a selfie of his CNMI Davis Cup teammates Colin Sinclair, second from left, Robbie Schorr, third from left, Colin Ramsey, fourth from left, manager Karen Buettner, left, and captain Jeff Race, right.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI Davis Cup team, from left, captain Jeff Race and players Colin Ramsey, Robbie Schorr, Tomas Abel, and Colin Sinclair prior to their tie against Bahrain last Wednesday at the Bahrain Tennis Federation tennis courts in Isa Town, Bahrain.

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

The CNMI won its debut in Group 5 of the Davis Cup last Wednesday by beating Maldives, 3-0, at the Bahrain Tennis Federation tennis courts in Isa Town, Bahrain.

In their match against Bhutan yesterday, the CNMI won the first two singles matches with No. 2 Robbie Schorr, who led the NMI's men's gold medal sweep in last June's Micronesia Games, topping Bhutan's No. 1 Tashi Dorji, 6-2, 6-1.

» Schorr, Sinclair sweep singles against Bhutan

No. 1 Colin Sinclair, taking time out from the pro tour to represent the NMI, then clinched the tie by downing Bhutan's No. 2 Tenzin Singye Dorji, 6-2, 6-0.

Against Maldives in their Davis Cup debut Wednesday, Schorr defeated Maldives' No. 1 Muhammad Nooh Nazih, 6-1 6-0, to open up the tie.

Sinclair then bucked a bad back to beat Maldives' No. 2 Abdulla Faaih Fazeel, 6-2, 6-1, to clinch the tie.

CNMI Davis Cup captain Jeff Race then fielded the doubles team of Colin Ramsey and Tomas Abel for mop-up duty and the pair delivered by getting the better of Mohamed

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Marpac reigns over CPA, 87-80

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Marpac-Budweiser reigned over CPA, 87-80, in the 2nd Annual R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Gov't/Business League 2024 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Marpac bounced back in the second half after trailing in the first half by a few points. CPA had the upper hand and momentum in the first and second quarter, but gassed out later, while Marpac turned on their afterburners and rallied for a comeback.

Hustle plays by Marpac was their forte as their offensive was led by dynamic shooters Chioni Dela Cruz, Coby Santos, and Jeffrey Castro.

After being down by close to double digits in the second quarter, Marpac closed the gap quickly and a hustle buzzer-beater by Dela Cruz

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LEIGH GASES
Marpac's Chioni Dela Cruz leaps for a reverse layup as he's contested by CPA's Donovan Brennan during their game in the 2nd Annual R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Gov't/Business League 2024 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Walk-off win for Dodgers in return of Masters League

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The 2024 Saipan Baseball League Masters League Dodgers team channeled the winning ways of the 2024 MLB World Series champion Dodgers, opening their season with a thrilling 8-7 walk-off win over the defending champion Pirates last Wednesday at Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

It was a finals rematch thriller that almost rivaled last season's best-of-three championship series, but with a different outcome as the Dodgers won this battle.

LEIGH GASES
A pick-off attempt at second base by the Dodgers wasn't executed properly which resulted in the safe call of a Pirates baserunner during the opening game of the 2024 Saipan Baseball League Masters League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field last Wednesday.

LEIGH GASES
Dodgers right fielder James Benavente stretches out but was just short of catching a fly ball by a Pirates batter during the opening game of the 2024 Saipan Baseball League Masters League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field last Wednesday.

The Dodgers had the bases juiced at the bottom of the seventh inning with nobody out, tied at 7-apiece. Tim Wesley stepped up to the plate and knocked in the winning run as he hit a soft ground ball to Pirates second baseman Bal Maratita who fumbled it—which finalized the game at 8-7.

The Pirates held on to a lead early on but lost it to a rallying and more explosive Dodgers team.

It was 2-0 in favor of the Pirates after the top of the second, when the Dodgers bats came alive and rounded the bases four times to reverse the favor in theirs, 5-2. The Pirates had a pitching change in the middle of the inning as they brought in Peter "Dung" Tenorio to stop the bleeding. He managed to collect the third out to mercifully end the inning and give his team a fighting chance.

The Pirates, however, failed to score in the third, but the Dodgers found their way back home from a well-timed sprint by Ed Manibusan for a commanding 6-2 lead.

In the fourth, the Pirates' Eric Palacios pushed in a run to get within three again, 3-6. The Dodgers were then held at bay in the fourth and fifth inning, but the Pirates could not capitalize as they failed to pro-

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